

Community Issues Report

SECOND QUARTER 2004

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

7/1/04

Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina

COMMUNITY ISSUES

4/1/04 – 6/30/04

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 5:30 am BUSINESS WEEK
(airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

April 5, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

A lack of sufficient funding and staff have left many South Carolina fire marshals unable to do all they could to protect communities from fire. Fire marshals say the shortages force them to pick parts of the fire code to focus on and results in inconsistent enforcement of the code across the state. Fire marshals have varying inspection schedules. Some inspect apartment complexes, some don't. Some ask building inspectors to do the inspections, while others ask firefighters not trained or certified as fire marshals. "It's like a patchwork quilt," said Ralph Foster, president of the South Carolina Fire Marshals Association and an engineer in the State Fire Marshal's Office. "The priority that is placed upon fire inspections around the state is really a community choice," he said. "Some departments really do a wonderful job staying on top of everything and others do what they can. Some fire chiefs, it's a priority for them, some it's not." Myrtle Beach Fire Marshal Bruce Arnel says he lacks the staff to inspect every commercial building, hotel or business each year. Arnel inspects what he calls "special hazards" - low-rise hotels, factories, schools, painting facilities - on an annual basis. The others are examined every two years. "I would say there are problems with fire inspection resources statewide," Arnel said. In Simpsonville, Fire Marshal Eddie Watson said he inspects businesses every six months, using firefighters, as other fire marshals do, to help with routine inspections. But Watson said he is often unable to make repeated trips to businesses with violations to make sure they're making necessary corrections. In some communities, fire departments have granted inspection duties, in part or in whole, to building code inspectors, said Foster of the Fire Marshals Association. That sometimes can create problems, he said, as in the cases of building officials who have waived sprinkler requirements. South Carolina does not require local fire marshals to be trained or certified. Most fire departments, especially in larger cities, have multiple fire officials trained as fire marshals, Foster said. Some rural fire departments don't have any. Budget cutbacks have compounded the problem because many local governments are reducing their training and travel spending, Foster said. "They can't find out about new technologies coming out," he said. "They lose the opportunity at refreshers on code sections that they may or may not run into on a daily basis. They may be put into a situation where they are signing off on a situation they don't know about." (1:45)

April 22, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Current BellSouth customers who had service with the telephone company from 1996 to 1998 should get a \$35 to \$40 credit on their bills this summer after the firm settled a lawsuit with the state. The agreement, announced Thursday, also keeps BellSouth from raising residential or business rates until January 2007. Rates have been frozen since the beginning of 2000 under a different agreement with the state's consumer advocate, the state Consumer Affairs Department said. Acting Consumer Advocate Elliott Elam said he was pleased with the settlement. "It will bring both immediate and ongoing rate benefits for residential, business and low income customers without having to wait through potentially years more of litigation," Elam said. The settlement ends a 10-year fight between BellSouth and the consumer advocate that began when the Public Service Commission agreed to no longer examine the phone company's earnings. The consumer advocate sued, and four years later, the state Supreme Court sent the case back to the commission. The commission refused to investigate BellSouth's rate, sending the case back to the high court. Under the settlement, BellSouth also must withdraw a request before the Public Service Commission to take nearly \$9 million from the Universal Service Fund, which is a fee added to bills to make phone service in rural areas more affordable, Consumer Affairs Department said. The phone company also agreed to relax its rules for qualifying for a program that reduces phone bills for people with lower incomes. State officials say the agreement could save BellSouth customers more than \$100 million on their phone bills. (1:45)

May 1, 2004

10 pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A computer glitch kept Atlanta-bound Delta Air Lines flights on the ground for about 6 1/2 hours Saturday. The problem was fixed Saturday night, but the carrier said it was still experiencing delays. Delta spokeswoman Liza Caceres said Saturday night the nation's third-largest airline didn't know how many flights had been affected. The problem arose about 3 p.m. EDT. Flights that were in the air at the time the glitch occurred were allowed to land in Atlanta, Caceres said. Caceres did not provide details of the computer problem but said, "This is not a safety or security issue." Kathleen Bergen of the Federal Aviation Administration said Delta told the FAA it had a problem with computers that calculate weight and balance and handle information related to preparing for flight, as well as gate information. "It was not safety-related in any way," Bergen said. (1:45)

May 8, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Publix grocery stores recalled certain packages of its deli chicken salad Saturday after a routine sample tested positive for listeria bacteria. Publix recalled its store-brand, 8 oz. deli chicken salad with a use-by date of May 5. It was manufactured at Publix's deli kitchen in Lakeland. A routine sample of the chicken salad tested positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*, Publix said. It was unclear where the chicken salad was distributed, but Publix has stores in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee. "While there is no product remaining at any store location, it is still our responsibility to notify our customers of these findings," Publix spokesman Dwaine Stevens said. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the chicken salad, Stevens said. *Listeria*

monocytogenes is an organism that can cause serious, sometimes fatal infections in the elderly, young children and those with weakened immune systems. It can cause miscarriages and stillbirths. (1:45)

May 10, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Telephone companies say a deregulation bill in the South Carolina Legislature could help them set better prices, but the state consumer advocate says it would limit customers' ability to complain about poor service. The bill would remove Public Service Commission oversight of the practice of offering services such as Internet access, residential telephone service and wireless services in a bundled package. BellSouth, which backs the bill, said it will give consumers more choices and better prices. BellSouth officials would not say how much of its service is sold in bundled packages. "We just want to compete without our hands tied behind our back," said Hank Fisher, the company's executive director in South Carolina. Consumers or competitors would no longer be able to complain to the PSC about poor service or unfair practices when it comes to bundled services, said Elliott Elam, the state's acting consumer advocate. "The only resort a customer or competitor would have would be to go to federal court," said Elam, who opposes the bill. The bill would also relax regulation for some rural telephone companies, allowing them to use price caps instead of set rates that require them to return to customers any earnings over a certain amount. Only rural companies that face competition from two wireless telephone companies could opt out of set rates. Opponents say removing government oversight from rural companies which face little competition in the areas they serve would hurt competition and could result in higher prices for customers. The legislation has passed the House. The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to take it up Tuesday. (1:45)

May 13, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Bottles that were supposed to be Children's Motrin Grape Chewable Ibuprofen Tablets could have an adult dose of a Tylenol Geltabs. No injuries have been reported yet, but if your child takes one of the Geltabs, the results could pose a serious health risk. The suspect bottles were distributed between Feb. 5 and April 1, and are labeled as containing 24 tablets, with lot number "exp 1/06 jam108." If you have one of the bottles, contact McNeil's consumer relationship center at (800) 962-5357. The children's product is a round, purple tablet with a grape smell with the letters MO and the number 50 on the tablet surface. The adult product is a shiny red-and-white, gelatin-coated tablet with "8 hour" printed in blue on either the red or the white side. (1:45)

May 13, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

What do 200 Swiss knives, a corkscrew and a Global Positioning System have in common? They've all been sold by the state of South Carolina on eBay. Using the Web's best-known auction site has been a trend among states

and municipalities, and the Palmetto state is one of the latest to use cyberspace to sell its extra stuff. Since December, the state has sold about \$10,000 worth of goods on eBay, according to Lin Wright, program manager at the South Carolina Surplus Property Office. The items range from simple pocket knives confiscated at airport checkpoints to scissors to an embossing machine, which stamps numbers and names on credit cards. That machine sold for roughly \$500, one of the most expensive item sold to date. Wright credits the team at the surplus office for coming up with the idea. They wanted to show some of the rarer items they've received to a wider audience. Enter eBay, where everything from ex-wives' wedding dresses to Beanie Babies have sold. "Sometimes, the property is so unique that we elected to put it on eBay, where there's a broader demand for it," Wright said. He used the GPS item as an example, noting that not many people shopping at the surplus agency's warehouse in Columbia would likely buy it. But placed on eBay, it attracts campers and fishermen among other buyers. "This is in its embryonic stages still so I can't be emphatic about anything," Wright said. But clearly Wright was excited consumers and Web wanderers have taken notice. The money from the sale of the items goes to state agencies or the supply office, which uses the money to ship and package items. The cost for posting items on eBay is nominal and varies, Wright said.

The agency doesn't bombard the Web site with hundreds of items, but chooses instead to auction off about 10 to 15 items a week. It has started off with somewhat smaller, less expensive items, but Wright said they could auction vehicles on the site. Unless it's 200 of the same knives or similar tools that can be sold together, the agency chooses to auction items one at a time - an attempt to get top dollar. Others states such as Oregon, South Dakota, Kentucky and California use eBay to sell items. And earlier this year in South Carolina, the Summerville Police Department auctioned a motorcycle and received more than triple what they had anticipated. But not everything is being bought and sold on eBay. The surplus office recently sold a small plane for Department of Natural Resource. They advertised the plane on the Web, and through a sealed bid auction sold the single-engine Cessna 180 for \$105,200. DNR spokesman Mike Willis said that money will be used to replace an Aero Commander that crashed more than a year ago. The money from the Cessna sale, coupled with roughly \$550,000 the agency received from an insurance settlement, should be enough to buy another plane. Like the plane, many surplus items never make it to eBay. The surplus office wants to keep the goods in the state if possible, offering them first to state agencies for a month, and then to the public. Finally, the item might end up on eBay. "We are kind of selfish, too, though. We want to make it available to South Carolinians first if we can," Wright said. "And then if that doesn't work, we go out and find those folk who might come all the way from Alaska." (1:45)

May 17, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Legislation that would deregulate telephone companies will lead to higher phone bills for rural businesses in South Carolina, a small business advocate group said Monday. The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce estimates there will be rate increases of up to 115 percent for small businesses, which purchase service from 20 rural telephone companies in the state. Under the bill, telephone companies with at least two wireless companies in the area would no longer be considered monopolies. As a result, the Public Service Commission would lose regulatory powers over telephone companies selling packages for different services, possibly leading companies to increase rates to catch up to the state average. "There was no room in this debate for the consumer, especially small businesses," said Frank Knapp Jr., president of the small business chamber. "We're here to let those small businesses know that they're facing potentially very large increases in their basic line rate in these rural areas." For example, the Fort Mill Telephone Co. could increase business line rates by 71 percent, and businesses using the Bluffton Telephone Co. may pay 115 percent more, according to the group. Large rate increases could happen if businesses purchase services in those bundled packages, said Doug Pratt, an engineer at the commission. "We would hope that the companies would not take advantage of this," said Pratt, who said the commission would be "pleased if the bill went away." The bill has already passed the House and is awaiting debate

in the Senate. BellSouth backs the bill, saying it gives consumers more choices and better prices, and the chamber agrees, except in the case of small rural businesses and cell phone use. Knapp said cell phone companies are not competitors of telephone companies. "There are too many features of a land line that can't be offered with a cell phone," Knapp said. "They are simply not legitimate competition for land lines and to declare that they are in order to get around the law and say, 'Oh look, we're not monopolies,' is a farce." Rep. Harry F. Cato, R-Travelers Rest, believes the only competition telephone companies in rural areas will ever have is from cell phone companies. As the bill's sponsor, Cato said small telephone companies should be able to act like larger companies, like BellSouth. "They can't price themselves out of the market," he said. (1:45)

May 17, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A Spartanburg County business is getting some heat from its customers and many have contacted the Better Business Bureau. ArtsofNature.com sells live turtles and all their needs over the internet, but some of its customers across the country say they're not satisfied and they're complaints have not been answered. Representatives from ArtsofNature.com say they're working to answer those complaints. ArtsofNature.com went nationwide about a year and a half ago, selling turtles and accessories, but in that time, several complaints about shipments and unanswered questions have been filed with the Better Business Bureau. Kathy Barrett, President of the Better Business Bureau says, "On the internet the company policy is 100% satisfaction guaranteed, but the consumers are saying they can't get a hold of the company, they send as many as 20 to 30 emails and have received nothing back from the company." Maranda Tarlton, the Customer Service Associate with ArtsofNature.com says, "If you don't answer the current customer's questions, then it's just an endless cycle and you're going to continue to get those Better Business Bureau complaints because you have another customer you haven't completely satisfied. So, we are striving to improve that customer service and in the same process, catch up on anything that's not being taken care of." In the meantime, the Better Business Bureau has issued an unsatisfactory performance rating for ArtsofNature.com. "Currently we have an unsatisfactory record and we'll continue to have that until these issues are resolved," says Barrett. ArtsofNature.com says they've asked the BBB for more time to get the complaints investigated and then respond and they plan on having a response for the BBB in the next 10 business days. They also say they've hired more employees to help handle the more than 100 emails and orders that come in each week. (1:45)

June 3, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A bill that would have made hotels without fire sprinklers post signs about it failed in the Legislature. It was the last ditch attempt at passing legislation spawned by a Greenville hotel fire in January that killed six people and injured 12. A measure that required all hotels to put in sprinklers died in April. "I'm quite upset and disappointed," said Amelia Barbour of Michigan, who lost a niece and great-nephew in the Comfort Inn fire. "I really cannot believe that an 8.5-by-11 piece of paper would hurt." Hotel owners would have had to post signs saying state law doesn't require them to have sprinklers. Hotels that did not comply could have faced fines of \$2,000 per day. Rep. Kenny Bingham, R-Cayce, chaired the House subcommittee that examined the sign bill. He thought it too harsh for hotel owners. "All I could see is a \$2,000-a-day penalty, which is an incredible fine," Bingham said. "It's not going to save a life. It's not going to change the outcome in anyway, or if it is, no one was able to stand up and explain how this was going to do so." (1:45)

June 9, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Duke Energy plans to sell several acres of waterfront property along Lake Keowee next month. The RiverStone development will be located off state Highway 130 in Oconee County, officials with Crescent Resources, the real estate affiliate of Duke, said Tuesday. Duke plans to release 90 lots, ranging from 0.6 acres to 5.21 acres. All but 13 lots have water frontage. Property prices for waterfront land start at \$80,000 and interior lots will start at \$30,000, Crescent officials said. Potential buyers will be able to put in bids for land starting July 24. Duke Energy

owns Lake Keowee, an 18,500-acre body of water that supports Oconee Nuclear Station, a nuclear power plant. The last land release came in October, when Crescent Resources opened the Highlands on Lake Keowee, a 75-site development in Pickens County. Land is freed up only when demand and value are at a premium, company officials say. Sales along Lake Keowee were higher than expected and the company is "optimistic" the trend will continue, a company statement said Tuesday. (1:45)

June 10, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A bankruptcy trustee told U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. that checks to investors who lost money in the bankruptcies of Carolina Investors Inc. and HomeGold Financial Inc. could go out in late August or early September. Bankruptcy trustee Ralph McCullough told the judge Wednesday that about \$23 million has been collected so far. About 8,000 South Carolinians lost \$275 million in the failures of the two companies. At the hearing, mortgage banking expert Wade Britt testified that HomeGold spent \$1.72 for every dollar it made the last five years it was in business. Britt said he found "things that look suspicious" as he worked to liquidate the assets of HomeGold, which was the parent company for Carolina Investors. Britt said HomeGold's management did little to stem the growing losses between 1998 and March 2003, when it collapsed. He says most of the \$10.5 million in loans that remain on HomeGold's books are only expected to bring a few pennies on the dollar. McCullough, the trustee, said he could not estimate how much might be collected from the nearly 20 parties named in civil lawsuits. He thought some settlements could bring enough money for one or two more payouts. "We're not through," McCullough said. "There are a number of people we are still in active negotiations with." McCullough told Anderson that he was under pressure to return money to investors since many of them are "old and need money for personal expenses and medical expenses." Anderson ordered both sides to return June 16. He said he would announce the results of mediation and set a trial date for those defendants who have not settled. (1:45)

June 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Pay telephones are disappearing in South Carolina, victims of growing number of cell phones. About half the pay phones in the state, or 11,000, have disappeared in the past two years, said Walter Rice, president of the South Carolina Public Communications Association. About half of the nation's residents, or 163 million, have cell phones. Pay phones can be critical in emergencies, Rice said. For people in remote rural areas, they provide a vital link to the world, he said. "There will always be pay phones," Rice said. "But there will be far fewer of them." BellSouth is selling its 143,000 pay phones in its nine-state region, including South Carolina, spokeswoman Marcia Purday said. "That decision was based on customer preferences and market trends," she said. Some people need the phones, Rice said. Low-income phone users depend on pay phones to look for jobs, he said. Business callers sometimes use pay phones, so they don't risk missing vital information because of cell phone static, said Willard Nichols, president of the American Public Communications Council. To stay competitive, pay phone operators are rolling out some new gadgets, Nichols said. Some phones offer screens that allow users to check e-mail, and some have Wi-Fi that allow customers to connect to the Web. Most pay phones cost between a quarter and 50 cents for local calls, Rice said. Calls to 911 are free. Police dispatchers receive daily calls from pay phones for help in emergencies, said Lt. Mike Gambrell, spokesman for the Greenville Police Department. "We still think it's a good service to the community," Gambrell said. (1:45)

June 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina's three-day break from sales tax will be Aug. 6 through Aug. 8. During the annual Sales Tax Holiday, many school-related items such as clothes and computers will be exempt from the state's 5 percent sales and use tax and any additional local county sales tax. This is the fifth year that the tax-free shopping weekend will be held. The weekend is by law the first weekend in August. The South Carolina Department of Revenue estimates that shoppers saved more than \$2.3 million in sales and use tax last year during the tax break. (1:45)

June 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Going out of business sales, great buys or just a scam to make you think you're saving money?

The Better Business Bureau is saying watch out. One furniture store in Spartanburg County, formerly known as World Wide Furniture Liquidators spent about a year "going out of business." Now, there are Grand Opening signs out, with a new name, Kelly & Kohen. But don't be fooled, the BBB says the going out of business practice is often the business itself. Great sale prices, liquidated items, incredible buys, how could you go wrong? It's easy when the company supposedly going out of business is making you think you're getting more and paying less. According to Kathy Barrett, the president of the Better Business Bureau, "This is one of the hottest businesses in the country, to have going out of business sales, it leads the consumer to believe they're getting good deals at reduced prices." It's a frustrating reality for other furniture business owners, like Mike Jolly, Jr., who owns Mattress Max Furniture Liquidators. Jolly's store is less than a mile from World Wide Furniture Liquidators, the business under scrutiny by the BBB. Jolly says, "They think they're getting a deal and they're really not, when in fact the prices have actually been increased. I think it's bad for the consumer to be deceived as far as buying from a store that says they're going out of business and then open back up."

A practice the BBB says they've seen by World Wide Furniture Liquidators owners at least six times in the past few years. "We have this company primarily in business as Ye Olde School House, Great American Home Store, Value Furniture, Best Value Furniture, Value Village and now World Wide Furniture Liquidators," says Barrett. Bottom line, do your homework and research prices before buying into a going out of business sale. "If it's a continual going out of business sale, it's not going out of business, it's their business," says Barrett. Barrett also suggests checking how long a business has been "going out of business," those types of sales usually last between 30 and 90 days. In that time there should be less merchandise in the store, if not, the sale may not be legitimate. FOX Carolina tried to contact the owners at World Wide Furniture Liquidators, but phone calls were not answered. (1:45)

June 16, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

It's one of the oldest scams in the books, but people keep falling victim to the idea of winning big money. Emails are constantly being sent, usually from another country saying you have millions of dollars coming, but you'll have to give out your private information or sent money before you can get your big prize. If you fall into this scam, you're not alone. It happens over the internet, through the mail and even over the phone. What seemed like a harmless postcard to Jerry Reynolds turned into a scam and a major loss for the Liberty man. All he had to do was send back the postcard to Costa Rico and he could win up to \$10 million. A month later, Jerry was called and told he was a winner and \$2,750,000 was waiting for him. But before he could get his money, Jerry needed to pay \$2750 for insurance. Jerry says, "I thought that sounded legit, so I went

ahead and paid that," with the promise that his millions would be delivered the next day. But there was no delivery, only a phone call saying tax fees were needed. Jerry agreed to pay another \$2250. But according to Jerry, it was the "same old deal, said the money would be sent out the next day, but the next day, they called again and said they needed \$1850 more." Jerry paid that money and another \$1,000. "I was angry with them, but I thought, I was this far in it, couldn't turn back now." Very skilled and convincing scam artists on the phone made it easy for Jerry to believe the money was still coming. Kathy Barrett with the Better Business Bureau says, "They use every type of ploy you can imagine to get you to believe this is true." For Jerry, "it was a dream that didn't come true." The BBB says they deal with these scams on a daily basis and say if it sounds too good to be true, it is. If you get one of these calls, postcards or emails, always investigate before giving out any information or money. You can also contact PhoneBusters at (888) 495-8501 or phonebusters.com they help track these scam artists. If you receive emails, forward them to 419.fcd@uss.treas.gov where the government keeps track of fraudulent emails and scams. Some red flags to look out for include: no adequate contact information, do not send anything to a P.O. Box, get factual phone numbers and other contact information. Never give out your personal information, including Social Security Number, or bank information. If the email or postcard claims you've received a fabulous price, send money now, an immediate response is necessary, this is completely legal or don't tell anyone, be alert and investigate before falling victim of these scams. It is illegal for Americans to participate in foreign lotteries or sweepstakes. (1:45)

June 23, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A warning about a little item arriving in mailboxes all over the region and it could cost you a whole lot of money, in what looks like a scam. Debbie Crymes of Greenville says, "it sounded like a good deal." Just yesterday she got a postcard from the "Motor Vehicle Protection Corporation." It read "final reminder" and asked her to call a number for information regarding her automobile. When Crymes called, the operator told her the warranty on her 1998 Jeep Cherokee was expired and she could offer her an extended warranty-- up to 103,000 miles or three years-- whichever came first. The price: \$2,500. "And I said I need to talk to my husband. He's not home, he'll be home in about 30 minutes to an hour and I will call you back tomorrow," said Crymes. But that wasn't good enough for the company. It tried lowering the down payment and threatened to take the deal off the table if she hung up without signing on. Crymes says, "I felt pressured because I felt like I need to make a decision in five seconds." So Crymes called FOX Carolina to investigate. We called the same number Crymes called and told the operator we had a 2002 Ford Explorer. The operator said our warranty was up soon and offered us an extended warranty for \$1,200. After we demanded an agreement the operator demanded a down payment. We then asked her who sent her our file on the Explorer and she replied the dealership did. But there couldn't have been a file-- because there is no Ford Explorer. The operator was clearly lying-- so we kept digging. "Motor Vehicle Protection" company claims to be a warranty agent for "Vemeco, Inc." We searched the Better Business Bureau web site and found that mail sent to Vemeco's address was returned and that the company left no forwarding orders. We also found another Vemeco in Texas. The bureau there received several complaints for customer service, refund and warranty issues. Crymes didn't fall into the apparent scam-- but she was shocked to learn what we uncovered in our investigation. Crymes said, "People need to be aware of what's out there and be careful." We tried contacting "Motor Vehicle Protection" corporation through a separate number to ask them about the apparent scam. We were unable to get through. The BBB says any company that pressures you into buying anything should be questioned - chances are they could be trying to scam you. (1:45)

June 29, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Some call it a scam that preys on generous donors and it could be coming to an end. If you've donated money or even thought about writing a check to your local police department you may want to think twice. Telemarketers who dial your number are now being targeted by the law. A lawsuit filed by Secretary of State Mark Hammond lists 19 victims-- but others may still be

out there. Some donors felt so compelled to donate to the Greenville Police Department they cut a check for as much as \$995. Greenville neighbor Brandi Koontz was one of the people who got the phone call. My caller i-d said Greenville Police-- they said they were calling from the Greenville police department.” But the secretary of state says the call didn't come from the police department and that the telemarketing company, “On Guard”, misrepresented itself to neighbors like Koontz. “On Guard” told Koontz her donation was tax deductible and that the money raised would help a summer “say no to drugs” campaign. Koontz cut a check for \$50 and was told a police officer would stop by to pick it up. But when he got there she became suspicious. Koontz says, “He showed up in a Polo shirt and a pair of khaki pants and he said I’m here to pick up the money and I said I thought you were going to be a police officer and I said I need ID. He gave me a laminated ID, it was handwritten, and his picture had fallen out and it said Greenville Police Association”.

The lawsuit filed in Greenville County also accuses “On Guard” telemarketers of failing to tell donors they were paid or professional. “On guard” is not admitting to or denying the charges and tells FOX Carolina it: "...expects that once the judicial system has had the opportunity to objectively and fairly evaluate this matter on its own merits, on guard will be able to continue to provide services to current and future clients". But if the states allegations are proven true-- donors like Koontz want to see justice. Koontz says, “all the money raised needs to be taken away and they need to be fined on top of that”. Koontz never gave the man who showed up at her door the \$50 check. If you become suspicious ask for i-d like Koontz did and also ask to see documentation showing the organization you’re donating to is indeed non- profit. If you think you may be a victim- call the secretary of state's office. (1:45)

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Saturdays (airs weekly)	8pm	COPS
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Monday – Friday at 12 midnight

DESCRIPTION: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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DESCRIPTION: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
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DESCRIPTION: The Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

April 5, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

An 11-year veteran of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office was shot to death Sunday night as he and two other deputies tried to serve involuntary commitment papers, the sheriff said Monday. The suspect fled on foot before deputies found his body behind a home in the subdivision where he lived. Sheriff Bobby Medford said Sgt. Jeff Hewitt, 33, was among three deputies attempting to serve the papers on Eddie Cassada, 56. The sheriff said when deputies arrived, Cassada opened fire. Hewitt, a former Marine who served in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, died at the scene. The other deputies returned fire and Cassada fled. He was found dead of a gunshot wound not far from his home, Medford said. Residents reported hearing multiple gunshots in the area around 10 PM. "There was a burst of gunshots fired at one point and then later on there was other shots fired and behind our property there were more shots fired later," said Jeff Watson, who lives near the scene of the shooting. (1:45)

April 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A former HomeGold employee told a federal judge Tuesday he was ordered to get rid of truckloads of the bankrupt financial company's documents from a storage facility. Tim Greaves said he and two other people removed 16 truckloads of documents and dumped them in a Simpsonville trash bin after fellow former employee Tony Park asked him to clear out the storage facility and get rid of the documents inside. Some of the paperwork was found in an Upstate recycling bin last month, including a 2000 financial statement, a report to the board of directors and correspondence from HomeGold's attorney. HomeGold, parent company to defunct Carolina Investors, closed last year and declared bankruptcy. More than 8,000 people lost more than \$275 million when Carolina Investors closed its doors. Bankruptcy trustee Ralph McCullough asked for Tuesday's hearing after a private investigator he hired said Greaves had conspired with other Homegold officials, including former chief executive Ronnie Sheppard, to destroy the documents. If Judge G. Ross Anderson finds Sheppard and Park destroyed documents, they could face fines or jail time. Anderson could also order Sheppard's Lexington-based lending company, Emmco LLC, to pay back some of the \$120 million a civil lawsuit says customers of Carolina Investors are owed. Attorneys for the investors sued Emmco, saying Sheppard agreed to pay back money he used from HomeGold assets to found his new company. Anderson said he will issue a ruling on April 15. The judge said testimony had convinced him it was "almost overwhelming that evidence was destroyed." "I don't want people playing games with a federal court, and especially (not) this one," Anderson said. "We do not let people destroy evidence." Greaves said once he realized what he was throwing away he kept one box of documents and later gave it to investigators. Greaves initially hoped to remain anonymous because he said he was scared of what Park and Sheppard might do to him. Park denied telling Greaves to destroy the documents, saying he only wanted them removed from the storage unit because he was behind on rent and the owners were going to auction what was inside. "I didn't care what he did with them as long as he got them out of the storage unit," Park said. During contentious testimony Tuesday morning, Sheppard said he did not know Park had the documents or that they had been destroyed. The judge scolded Sheppard twice for his lack of response to an attorney's questions. (1:45)

April 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A vice president of Carolina Investors, who also is married to the failed company's president, has been indicted on eight counts of securities fraud by a state grand jury. Anne W. Owen, 50, was indicted Tuesday, Attorney General Henry McMaster said. The indictment charges Owen with making false statements to the company's investors between May 2002 and February 2003. If convicted, Owen faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$50,000 on each count. There is no minimum sentence for the charge. Owen's husband, company president Larry Owen, has been indicted on 23 counts of securities fraud and is scheduled to go on trial June 7. If convicted on all counts, Larry Owen faces a maximum 206 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines. There are no minimum sentences for the charges. The trial of company chairman Earle Morris has been set to begin in October. Morris has been indicted on 24 counts of securities fraud. If convicted on all charges, Morris faces a maximum of 233 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines. There are no minimum sentences for the charges. About 8,000 investors lost \$275 million dollars when Carolina Investors and its parent company, HomeGold, went bankrupt last spring. (1:45)

April 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A man has been sentenced to 40 years in prison after he was convicted of killing a teenager and wounding another. Circuit Judge John C. Hayes sentenced William Anthony Seawright on his 21st birthday to 40 years in prison without the possibility of parole on a murder charge and 20 years on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill. The sentences are concurrent. Prosecutors said Seawright shot 17-year-old Joshua Brewton near Gibbs Stadium before the kickoff of a high school football game and then chased down and shot 15-year-old Michael Anthony Moton Jr. Assistant Public Defender Clay Allen told the jury that Seawright fired on Brewton and Moton in self-defense. Allen said an armed Moton told Seawright and his friends he would shoot them unless they handed over their money by the time he counted to three. Seawright admitted shooting the teens in a letter to the (Spartanburg) Herald-Journal in December but said both teens were armed. Prosecutor Bob Coler said police would have found weapons if teens were armed or Moton would have used the weapon to defend himself. (1:45)

April 19, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The Oconee County supervisor who has spent a year facing a criminal investigation has agreed to resign in exchange for all embezzlement and misconduct charges against her being dropped. But she will begin a new \$50,000-a-year contract with the county, making sure buildings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Suspended supervisor Ann Hughes was reinstated by executive order Monday after the charges against her were dropped. She is expected to resign at Tuesday's County Council meeting. In addition to agreeing to resign, she was required to write a "letter of contrition" for her actions while in office. In return, the Oconee County Council agreed to award Hughes a three-year contract to bring local government buildings in compliance with the ADA. Hughes said Monday she has no experience dealing with the act's regulations, but she said she wants to continue working for the county. Oconee County voters have changed their system of government, making Hughes the last county administrator elected to office. Prosecutor Bob Ariail said he agreed to the deal because it removes Hughes from office and from "any position of fiscal or supervisory responsibility." In February, Hughes was found innocent of separate charges that she made unauthorized phone calls while employed at Clemson University, before becoming county supervisor. Later that month, she paid the school \$387.95 for calls she made during a two-year period. Hughes was indicted for the phone calls after she was indicted on embezzlement and misconduct in office charges in Oconee County. She was accused of using county money to pay for personal items on trips, to pay for a family member to stay in a hotel and to make personal phone calls on a government-issued cell phone. County officials agreed the settlement was best for everyone. "The trial would have pushed this county backwards." (1:45)

April 19, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A reward leads to two arrests in a strange and violent crime. It was intended to be a robbery, but went bad and turned into a kidnapping and shooting. Monday, Greenville Police announced the arrest of two men involved in the crime which happened at the ICAR Project near Laurens Road in January 2004. Thanks to a caller's tip, police got the information they were looking for to put the suspects behind bars. Greenville Police Chief, Willie Johnson says, "Three loggers were kidnapped, duct taped, tied up out at the ICAR project off Laurens Road....and a logger was also shot so there were four victims in that case." Police say Kevin Anthony Reilly and Larkin Johnson Bridges, along with one other suspect kidnapped three Arledge Logging Company employees, with the intent of robbing one of them. "There was one particular person there that they were trying to kidnap and hold for ransom because they thought the person had money," says Chief Johnson. That's when the plan went bad, a fourth employee stumbled upon the kidnapping while driving his truck into work. The suspects panicked and shot that man, Mark Anthony Padilla in the stomach, all three suspects fled the scene. Police searched for any information and held a news conference on March 23, 2004, announcing the vehicle description and a \$7,000 reward through Crime Stoppers and Arledge Logging Company. In less than 24 hours, an anonymous caller gave them the lead they needed. According to Chief Johnson, "Detectives always say we were one telephone call away from clearing that case and that's exactly what happened." Now,

Bridges is charged with assault and battery with intent to kill for shooting Padilla, among other charges. Reilly faces several charges as well and remains in jail with no bond. The victim who was shot is doing well and at home. Police are sending a strong message with these arrests and warn these types of crimes will not be tolerated in Greenville. (1:45)

May 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Beverly Reed was killed in the bedroom of the home she shared with her mother on May 1, 1997; no arrest has been made. FOX Carolina's Ed Munn gives us an exclusive inside look at this crime; maybe you can help solve a cold case. Zora came home from work and found Beverly in bed; her entire head was an unrecognizable bloody mess." "She was cold as ice," recalls Zora. The murder was unexpected. It was fast, it was brutal, and it was probably committed by someone who knew Beverly. "I felt like she probably knew her assailant," says Lt. Layton Creamer. Beverly probably opened the door for the killer. "There was no sign of forced entry into the house." according to Creamer. The house had no signs of ransacking or missing items except for a few personal things belonging to Beverly. "That's another thing that leads us to believe that this is someone she knew," noted Creamer. At the time she was killed, Beverly had a steady boyfriend and at least two other male acquaintances. Lt. Creamer said, "We have interviewed all of those (people)." All three of those men remain classified by police as persons of interest. "Nothing in our investigation has led us to focus in on any one person at this time." This means police are just one phone call away from blowing this case wide open, "(If) we get that one piece of the puzzle, I'm satisfied we'll be able to solve this case," commented Creamer. Beverly died as a result of multiple blows to the head with a sharp object, probably a knife. She tried to defend herself, and as a result her arms and hands were cut trying to keep from being stabbed. She was struck with such force that her skull was fractured and penetrated by the knife. This attack was typical of a domestic dispute that turned violent. "I hate that she had to go like that. All of us have to leave here, but I don't think Beverly had to go like that," laments Zora. Police are determined to solve this case and have a stern message for the killer. "I would remind this person that homicide has no statute of limitations and sooner or later someone's going to knock on their door and show them an arrest warrant and handcuff them and bringing them to jail," said Lt. Creamer. Zora still has the teddy bears that adorned Beverly's bed the night she was killed. Those bears and a few pictures bring her memories of good times; if only those bears could talk. "I forgive them and wish that they would confess. Go to the police department and confess. It would help them to get this off their conscience if they would confess," says Zora. Somebody out there knows something, and it could be you. Help us get this dangerous killer off the streets and behind bars. If you have any information that could help police, call the Anderson Police Department. You don't have to give your name and you could receive a cash reward. (1:45)

May 12, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A man dressed as a clown who authorities think robbed a Lyman bank has been found dead at this home, Spartanburg County authorities said. Authorities said Stephen Clark Russell, 37, killed himself Tuesday before they forced themselves into his home. Some clown clothing and money were found in a Jeep parked in the yard, said Lyman Police Chief Scott Suttles. Officers tried to communicate with Russell from the outside, Suttles said. Russell was found dead on a sofa in the living room with an apparently self-inflicted shotgun wound to the head, investigator Brad Wall with the Spartanburg County Coroner's Office said. An autopsy was planned Wednesday, Wall said. A witness saw someone dressed like a clown running from the BB&T Bank about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, just before a bank robbery call was received, Suttles said. Another witness said he saw the suspect get into a Jeep and

drive away. "Because of the quick response of our units, we located the vehicle at a residence in Wellford in less than an hour," Suttles said. (1:45)

May 12, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Cherokee County minister who thought he was providing help to a man trying to turn his life around now finds himself in trouble. The Rev. Parker Burgess said he witnessed to the man, who later said he wanted to help Burgess in a missionary project to an Indian reservation in the Dakotas. However, the man, who's identified as Steven Howard Anderson, was a wanted man. He's been picked up by federal authorities and indicted on weapons charges as well as being a fugitive from justice. Burgess is facing accusations of harboring and concealing Anderson. A jury should begin deliberating his fate Wednesday. (1:45)

May 17, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A fire deliberately set at the Cherokee County courthouse caused at least \$500,000 in damages, County Administrator Ben Clary says. Three separate fires were set last week. The prosecutor's office suffered the worst damage, although Family Court and the county's main courtroom also were burned, Clary told County Council on Monday. Some of the damaged offices could reopen in June, although it will be at least two months before the prosecutor's office is cleaned up, Clary said. Investigators have not made any arrests in the case. Council Chairman Hoke Parris told Clary to send out proposals for a sprinkler system, smoke alarms and a security system. The courthouse doesn't have any of that equipment. (1:45)

May 17, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Some Greenville County drug court participants say a patch designed to test whether offenders have used drugs in the past two weeks is faulty. Prosecutors say the patch works and if participants continue to question it, they may shut down the entire program meant to give drug offenders an alternative to prison. Offenders in drug court must plead guilty to all the crimes they are charged with. Their sentences are suspended until they complete the 18-month treatment program. If they fail, they usually go to prison. The so-called "sweat patch" is placed on the arm or back for seven to 14 days. The patch is then sent to a lab, which tests for drugs including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines and marijuana, prosecutor Betty Strom said. But three people who may be kicked out of the program in part for testing positive to drugs said the results were false. They have argued about the patch's reliability before a judge and asked to be let back in the program. The manufacturer of the patch said its been upheld by judges at the local, state and federal level. Opponents said residue from drugs used by others can seep into the patch. They say urine tests may be more accurate. But Strom said if someone uses drugs the day the patch is put on, it wouldn't show up on a urine test done two weeks later. Since the drug court started using the patch, 910 have been applied and 57 have tested positive, Strom said.

Of the 57, four people didn't admit to using drugs or their results weren't confirmed by another test, she said. But participation in the program is voluntary and the drug court is fair, even with an occasional false-positive, because it provides the same opportunities to everyone, said Bob Arial, chief prosecutor for Greenville and Pickens counties. "This is a program that serves criminals," he said. "These people are criminals first and drug addicts second."

Therefore, when they go into the program they do so through the grace of the solicitor's office and in my view they will follow whatever rules the program or the solicitor's office deems appropriate." (1:45)

May 21, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A Greenville lawyer accused of sexually assaulting two women has pleaded guilty to drug charges. Will Dunn, 62, pleaded guilty Thursday to possession of marijuana and methamphetamine. Charges of criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping were dropped as part of a plea agreement. Prosecutor Bob Ariail said he was "disappointed in the overall result" of the case, but had no choice because the victims refused to testify. Dunn was arrested in February 2003 on two charges of criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping. Circuit Judge Ned Miller ordered Dunn to undergo random drug testing. Dunn was suspended from practicing law by the South Carolina Supreme Court. A hearing will be conducted to determine if he can keep his license. (1:45)

May 26, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A paralegal has pleaded guilty to wire fraud after prosecutors said she stole more than \$1 million in mortgage payoffs during a four-year span. Anna M. Knox, 54, of Travelers Rest pleaded guilty Tuesday, but she could have kept the scam going for years had she not turned herself in, U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald said. Knox told authorities that while working as a paralegal for a Greenville attorney she began skimming deposits made into an escrow account, McDonald said. After she came forward, agents discovered \$1,151,000 missing, he said. She will be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd after a pre-sentence report is completed. Knox faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine, McDonald said. Knox's attorney Joe Watson said she first used the money four years ago because she was having financial problems. "She could have kept the scheme going if she wanted to," he said. (1:45)

June 2, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A math teacher at Palmetto High School was arrested and charged with six counts in connection to a sexual assault of a 12-year-old boy. The State Law Enforcement Division issued warrants saying that 32-year-old Jay Bradley McJunkin of Central was charged with repeated sexual assaults of the student from June 2003 and March. The warrants alleged McJunkin engaged in graphic sexual activity, which included intercourse, with the boy in Pickens and Anderson counties. McJunkin was arrested at his home Tuesday evening. Anderson County Sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard said the boy's family went to the sheriff's office to report the contact on May 21. McCard said the warrants were issued Monday. McJunkin faces five charges of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and one count of committing or attempting a lewd act with a minor. He's being held at the Anderson County Detention Center. SLED became involved in the investigation because the charges cover two counties and the case will likely be tried by the state Attorney General's Office. Warrants said some incidents took place near Central and an Anderson County storage facility. Superintendent Christopher said a staffer charged criminally during the school year would face suspension without pay. McJunkin, though, has earned his pay through June 30 and would still be entitled to his checks. McCard said McJunkin is married to Jennifer Dobson, an assistant solicitor for the 10th Circuit office that covers Anderson and Oconee counties. SLED spokesman Mike Brown said McJunkin's case is still under investigation. (1:45)

June 4, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A Greenville attorney has pleaded guilty in a home lending scam where almost two dozen people already have been convicted. Mark Douglas Lattimore said he signed mortgage documents that defrauded a lending company out of almost \$2.2 million. Lattimore, 33, pleaded guilty to committing mail fraud Thursday in an ongoing federal mortgage fraud investigation. Lattimore was the closing attorney on inflated mortgage loans sent to National City Mortgage Co. of Ohio, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald said. While Lattimore didn't make any extra money on the inflated mortgages, he received a flat fee for each mortgage he processed, the newspaper reported. McDonald said Lattimore handled 88 loans. He could face 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson will sentence Lattimore later. McDonald said 19 loan officers, mortgage brokers and appraisers in the Upstate have been convicted. (1:45)

June 7, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

An Anderson County man who served as an Army National Guard chaplain has been charged with criminal sexual conduct. 45-year-old Ronald Ray Gaines of Townville is accused of forcing a boy to engage in sex acts. Gaines also is charged with two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and two counts of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child younger than 16. Warrants from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office state Gaines showed an eleven-year-old boy and a 14-year-old boy pornographic films. The warrant also says the two boys were fondled and one was forced to engage in other sex acts at Gaines' home. Sheriff's investigator Garland Major says someone called deputies last month to report they had seen a sex act. Major says Gaines is retiring from the National Guard. (1:45)

June 29, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The parents of a 13-year-old girl have sued a Spartanburg County school district, saying the district's failure to repair a broken light and other negligent actions "facilitated" their daughter's rape at a high school last year. The plaintiffs, who are unnamed, say that an outdoor lighting fixture in a darkened area in front of the James F. Byrnes High School was not working properly when their daughter was raped after a football game on Sept. 12. Spartanburg District 5 officials should have known about the problem, the lawsuit says. "Had the light been in proper working order, the area where the assault occurred would have been both well-lighted and clearly visible from the street," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit also says there was no supervision by school personnel in or near the area of the campus where the attack allegedly occurred. Byrnes principal Scott Turner, who will become district superintendent on Thursday, said he had not seen the lawsuit. Turner said the high school provides comprehensive security for its football games. "Security and safety are our number one priority," he said. The girl told investigators she was raped after chasing down a man who had run away after borrowing her cell phone. The man led the girl out of her friends' sight to an air conditioning unit beside steps at the high school's auditorium and forcibly raped her, a police report said. Terrell Levonne Drummond, 20, of Spartanburg has been charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct. (1:45)

June 30, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

An Anderson County teacher loses his job after two boys say he molested them. The Anderson School District 1 trustees voted Tuesday to fire Jay Bradley McJunkin because of the sexual abuse allegations that surfaced in early June. On June 2, 2004, McJunkin pleaded not guilty in Anderson County Court to sexually assaulting two boys, one of whom was a 12 year old he tutored. The 10 charges span between the summer of last year and March of this year in both Anderson and Pickens Counties. McJunkin is free on bail, under house arrest, and electronically monitored. When we went to his house in Central Wednesday night his family told us McJunkin was staying somewhere else. Earlier this week McJunkin accepted a certified letter, letting him know his career as a Math teacher and cross country coach at Palmetto High School is over. The superintendent could not discuss personnel matters. But when the allegations first came to light Dr. Reggie Christopher told FOX Carolina, "He has a good track record in our district. He worked at Palmetto Middle School for several years and then moved away and when he came back, we hired him. So we thought a good deal of this teacher. He was an excellent teacher". (1:45)

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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April 21, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

Senate Finance Committee leaders adopted a plan Wednesday to spend \$341 million from the state lottery. The proposal, to be debated Wednesday afternoon before the full committee, increases spending on a variety of technical college tuition programs, creates a new public school career-track program and leaves intact \$30 million earmarked for college research programs. The subcommittee's plan would put \$42.5 million into technical college tuition assistance, or \$8.5 million more than the House. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said that would make sure 75 percent of the costs of going to a technical college are covered by the lottery. The lottery also would put \$2 million into Pathways for Prosperity, a program that updates existing school-to-work initiatives in high schools. Leatherman said a \$30 million commitment to the so-called endowed chairs program needs to be kept even though the initiative will have more than \$52.5 million in state coffers by June 30. So far, only \$7.5 million of the \$60 million set aside endowed chairs has been spent. Colleges must match the state's contribution to the program with private or federal funding. The subcommittee's recommendation also cuts \$20 million from the House's proposal to put \$50 million into kindergarten through fifth grade math, science and reading programs and cuts spending for school buses. The Education Department has \$28 million in lottery money already on hand to buy school buses, Leatherman said. About \$8 million of that has gone to bus maintenance and fuel purchases, but the rest should already have been spent on buses, Leatherman said. (1:45)

April 22, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mark Sanford's school choice bill was effectively killed by the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. The full committee agreed to adjourn debate on the bill, postponing discussion until a later date. That means the bill is unlikely to be passed by the House before the May 1 deadline so the Senate can consider it. The bill would give parents education tax credits on property or income taxes to use toward private education, home schooling or the cost of transferring a child to another school district. House Minority Leader James Smith applauded the move. "This bill would have drained money from public schools and lowered educational standards all over South Carolina," Smith said in a news release. Supporters said the bill would make it easier for students to leave low-performing schools. (1:45)

May 4, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

It's a big week for South Carolina students, PACT testing week. Upstate School districts have told parents to make sure their children get plenty of rest the night before testing, but that doesn't always happen. For many kids playing baseball in the Mauldin Recreation Leagues, it's a battle between hitting a home run on the field or possibly striking out in the classroom. Many parents have mixed views about letting their third and fourth graders play ball or get a good night's sleep. Karen Padgett is concerned about her son playing late games. "These games last approximately two hours, that puts the game being over at 10:00pm and that's not an appropriate time to get home during a testing week. I really want him to do well on that and he needs to get a good night's rest so we're going to have to see what we're going to do about that, doing the 8:00pm game and being prepared for the math section of the PACT." The Mauldin Recreation Director, Van Brannon realizes these late games are an issue, especially during PACT testing week. Between the 1800 kids, their parents, and the more than 150 different baseball teams, changing schedules now is nearly impossible. According to Brannon, "A league our size, we try to do the best we can to accommodate people, but a lot of the time we just can't make everybody happy." But plans to adjust next year's schedule have many parents cheering. "That is wonderful news, that's wonderful news, that way we can have that happy medium, and we can participate in sports and be successful in school," says Padgett. Some parents are considering not letting their kids play late games during PACT testing week. PACT test results are one factor considered by teachers when deciding whether or not to let students' moves on to the next grade. (1:45)

May 6, 2004

10 pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The public may never know what prompted the abrupt resignation of Greenville County's school superintendent last month. Trustee Crystal Ball O'Connor said she doesn't believe the public has the right to know "any specific personnel information." "I'd certainly like to be able to talk about this because I think it would remove a cloud of uncertainty, which is upsetting to a lot of people and more difficult on the community," she said. "But I respect the reason we don't discuss personnel matters because it would be unfair." Bill Harner, who served as superintendent of the district's 63,000 students since 2000, resigned April 27 following two days of closed-door meetings of the school board. The settlement, which contains a provision barring either side from talking about the resignation, does not say why Harner resigned. "There were discussions behind closed doors by the school board, which they are entitled to do under the law," said Harner's attorney, Jay Bender. Harner's four-year tenure was marked by a series of clashes with the board and the community over issues such as the moving of Beck Academy, changing school start times, closing two career centers, school dress codes and a tax increase referendum that was soundly defeated. School board chairwoman Tommie Reece understands people are curious about why Harner left, but says releasing details wouldn't change the outcome. "People do have privacy rights," trustee William Herlong said. "That applies to the superintendent and everybody else." (1:45)

May 12, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

As abruptly as Greenville County schools lost one superintendent, they gained another. The school board named Phinnize Fisher as superintendent Tuesday night to replace Bill Harner, who resigned unexpectedly two weeks ago. "I had no idea," said Fisher, who becomes the first woman to hold the district's top job. The board went behind closed doors at 9 p.m. to discuss Fisher's pay as interim superintendent. Then talk turned to giving Fisher the job permanently, said Board Chairwoman Tommie Reece. Fisher was elected by an 11-0 vote. Greenville is the state's largest school district with 63,000 students and a yearly budget of more than \$300 million. Several trustees said they had anticipated a national search, but Reece said Fisher had all the qualities the board was looking for. "We wondered: 'Why are we going to just ask her to serve as interim when we know that we want her?'" Reece said. Fisher served as Harner's right-hand during his four years here. Before that, she served in a similar position in a district in suburban Washington that is more than twice the size of Greenville. Wade Cleveland, the district's general counsel, said the board was not required to advertise the opening. (1:45)

May 23, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Less than a decade after voters rejected a similar proposal, some South Carolina lawmakers want to ask Greenville County residents if they support a study examining whether the state's largest school district is too big. The South Carolina House has approved a resolution to ask voters whether they want to create a task force to study breaking up the district into three or more smaller ones. The legislation calls for the task force to consider issues of racial equality, fiscal equity and giving each district more control of their finances than Greenville County now has. In 1996, voters rejected a proposal to divide the district after some lawmakers argued smaller districts would give parents more control and a larger sense of community involvement. About 60 percent of the voters in the referendum voted against the idea. Opponents of the legislation say the costs would be paid for by the school system, but supporters say the legislation doesn't address the costs, which will be minimal. "The resolution, which calls for a November vote, is in the Senate where it faces objection from Sen. Ralph Anderson, D-Greenville, and is unlikely to pass the Legislature before its June 3 adjournment. Anderson said breaking up the district would make it nearly impossible for poor areas to build new schools. Paul Krohne, director of the South Carolina School Boards Association, said there is no evidence that students perform better or worse depending on the size of the district. "There is no magic size," he said. "But its best left to the local government and populace to decide." (1:45)

June 8, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A day after Greenville's chief prosecutor said there was no evidence of wrongdoing by Bill Harner that led to his resignation as Greenville County schools superintendent, it was announced that he was hired as a Georgia middle school principal. Harner starts work at Gainesville Middle School on July 1, overseeing a staff of 65 and a student population of about 950, said Gainesville City Schools superintendent Steven Ballowe. Harner resigned April 27 after two days of meetings by school trustees. Neither Harner nor board members have said why the former superintendent left according to a settlement agreement reached at the time Harner left. Ballowe said Harner told him there were "a lot of different reasons" behind the departure. Ballowe said he talked with board members and Greenville school attorneys before deciding on Harner. The Gainesville school board hired Harner on Monday night. "I just think he will be a tremendous asset for that middle school," Greenville trustee Crystal Ball O'Connor said. Ballowe and Harner have worked together before. Ballowe was a schools superintendent in Beaufort County while Harner was principal of Hilton Head High School. Solicitor Bob Ariail reviewed sworn statements of various school employees taken by a court reporter in April. Ariail said the documents were provided by two attorneys hired by the Greenville County School Board to handle the matter. Tommie Reece, school board chairwoman, said she couldn't discuss why the board hired the lawyers or talk about the sworn statements. "I don't think it's important to go into those kind of old details at this point," she said. "It's closed, it's finished and resolved as far as the board is concerned." Harner was a retired Army lieutenant colonel who took over South Carolina's largest school district in July 2000. He said at time he wanted the district to be the best in the Southeast by 2005. During his four years, Harner's district saw an 12-point increase in SAT scores; fewer students failing PACT tests; and an increase in Advanced Placement class enrollment. The district got three "good" ratings on report cards. (1:45)

DESCRIPTION

Lander University has increased tuition by 8.5 percent for next fall, the school's board of trustees said Tuesday. Students will see an increase of \$228 per semester. The increase was approved at the board's meeting. Tuition

and fees at Lander will rise to \$2,928 per semester for full-time undergraduate students from South Carolina. Out of state students will see an increase from \$5,545 a semester to \$6,012. "Raising tuition is not a decision that we take lightly," university president Dan Ball. "We believe in affordable public education, but we also believe that the quality of that education cannot be promised." Ball said it was important school leaders manage Lander's resources well to keep an "atmosphere that encourages intellectual, personal and social responsibility." (1:45)

June 30, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The University of South Carolina-Spartanburg has a new name. The USC board of trustees voted Wednesday to change the four-year campus' name to USC-Upstate. The name change gives the campus a chance to form better partnerships with companies and other groups throughout the region surrounding Interstate 85, said USC-Upstate Chancellor John Stockwell. "It's not simply a name change," Stockwell said. "Upstate is a label that has a great deal of currency on that I-85 corridor." Most of the campus' 4,500 students are Upstate residents, with about 35 percent from the Greenville area and 50 percent from Spartanburg. USC-Upstate is the second-largest university campus, behind the main campus in Columbia. The university's presence in Greenville has grown in the past 10 years offering classes at the University Center of Greenville, where seven South Carolina colleges offer classes. More than 70 percent of the students who attend classes at the University Center are USC-Upstate students. Along with the name change, the university plans to expand the courses and degrees offered at the campus, including adding a master's degree in information management and systems, Stockwell said. The campus also plans to start accepting a larger nursing class each semester, he said. (1:45)

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
April 8, 2004	10 pm	10 O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Tiny beetles that feed on a destructive exotic plant pest have been released in infested lands in the Southern Appalachian forest. .S. Forest Service officials have teamed with some private partners and universities to breed the beetles and release them as part of an effort to establish a natural enemy in the region for the hemlock wooly adelgid. About 4,000 Japanese pseudoscymnus tsugae beetles were set out Wednesday on hemlock trees near the Upper Whitewater Falls. Officials hope the beetles eventually will settle down to eat the adelgids in the Nantahala National Forest. Adelgids coat trees with fuzzy white spots. They feed by piercing energy-producing cells at the base of needles. Adelgids arrived in the western United States in 1924 aboard imported nursery plants, but didn't reach the East until the mid-1950s. Since then, they have been devastating eastern and Carolina hemlocks. "We'll probably lose (rarer Carolina hemlocks) altogether," said Buzz Williams of the Chattooga Conservancy, a partner in the beetle release program. Losing all hemlocks in the East would be a major disaster, said Rusty Rhea, with the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Health Protection. Eastern hemlocks inhabit river and stream bottoms, he said. They mature rapidly, creating shade and other old-growth conditions that benefit animals that inhabit only mature forests. Their shade moderates stream temperatures, and, because their preferred habitat is rarely touched by natural wildfires, soil around hemlocks is acidic and home to unique ecosystems. (1:45)

April 18, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

The state Department of Natural Resources says budget cuts could force the agency to scale back or eliminate the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. The fish hatchery has 1 million trout in tanks and long ponds to accommodate an \$18 million industry. State surveys show more than 100,000 fishing trips are made each year to the mountains of Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties. A \$3 million budget cut means "everything" is on the table, though the Walhalla Fish Hatchery is a top priority, said Mac Watson, hatchery coordinator for the Natural Resources Department. South Carolina once had seven full-time fish hatcheries. Budget cuts have closed two, cut two others to part-time production and left three intact. Biologists say there are too many fishermen for the native trout population, and either the federal or state governments have stocked three kinds of trout from the hatchery since the mid-1930s. Without the hatchery, Upstate fish populations couldn't sustain the demand, said Tom Schwedler, professor of biology at Clemson University. "It wouldn't take long to fish them out up there," he said. "We have such a heavy population here and except for a few streams, our trout waters are marginal." Cutting services like the hatchery, which produces \$18 million in economic activity for \$172,000 in state tax dollars, doesn't make sense, said state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville. The trout fishing industry depends heavily on the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. The hatchery's entire budget is \$307,000, and the federal government funds \$135,000 of that. The state

earned nearly \$3 million off freshwater fishing licenses alone last year, with \$1.2 million coming from out-of-state fishermen. (1:45)

April 18, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Several counties in the Upstate and parts of two counties in the Midlands must improve the air quality under tougher smog standards the federal government implemented Thursday. Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg counties did not meet the new standards, and parts of York, Richland and Lexington counties also were singled out by the Environmental Protection Agency as having dirty air or contributing to air problems in neighboring communities. If the trio of Upstate counties don't meet the new standards in three years, they face tougher businesses regulations and less funding for new roads - two penalties that could hurt economic development. A committee that wants to create a plan to clean the air in the Upstate will meet soon, said chairman Phillip Shoopman. Many of the plan's recommendations are voluntary, and only a few would need approval, including expanding bus routes, offering tax credits or banning outdoor burning. But the Upstate can't wait to start with the little things, like refueling cars after rush hour, Shoopman said. "Carpooling is not just a tree-hugger idea," Shoopman said. "It's a practical idea that could literally mean bringing more jobs here." The EPA designated Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg as one area, so even if Greenville meets the standards, the county would remain in nonattainment until the other two counties follow suit. "Achieving the standard will be a challenge and will require good cooperation from the counties and everyone in the area," said Stan Meiburg, deputy regional administrator for the EPA in Atlanta. The Upstate counties were among 474 counties in 31 states in not meeting the new ozone standards. More than 150 million people - half the country's population - live in areas violating the standards. The number of counties in violation nearly doubled from the old standard. (1:45)

May 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Bureau of Air Quality meteorologists have recommended an Ozone Alert for the Midlands, Upstate and Central Savannah regions of South Carolina, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control advised today. The alert means the regions will experience high levels of ground-level ozone. Conditions in the three regions will be in the Orange category. The Pee Dee area will be in the Yellow category. Color codes of green, yellow, orange and red are used to indicate conditions that are good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups or unhealthy amounts of ground-level ozone. Orange or Red categories carry recommendations that active children and adults, as well as those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should limit or avoid prolonged outdoor exertion. Ground-level ozone is formed when gases emitted from vehicles and industries mix in the hot sunlight. While ground-level ozone is not new, there is growing evidence that air pollution such as ozone and particulate matter, may be a cause of asthma. Ozone can cause shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing for those with breathing disorders, and on bad days even in healthy people. There are simple steps we can take to reduce the emissions that make ground-level ozone. Telecommuting, using mass transit, carpooling and staying in at lunchtime reduces the number of vehicles on the road, which lessens emissions. Through a cooperative agreement with the S.C. Department of Transportation, DOT electronic message boards will flash the ozone alert to motorists. The forecast is updated daily and can be found at www.scdhec.gov/ozone. (1:45)

May 13, 2004
O'clock News

10pm

The Ten

DESCRIPTION

The escalating problem of methamphetamine labs in North Carolina is creating a new danger for sanitation workers. Methamphetamine is made by cooking ordinary household chemicals in a process that creates hazardous waste. When law enforcement shuts down an illicit laboratory, the people left to clean up and handle the debris can be jeopardized by the flammable material and its toxic fumes. In one recent incident, Greg Watts was using a loader to move trash at the Burke County transfer station when a fire erupted in the pile of garbage. Smoke filled the station in seconds. "I heard it go up like gas would go up ... like poof," Watts said. "I've never seen anything burn this hot. It's the stuff they throw away from these meth labs. It is very dangerous, explosive stuff." A report released last week by Attorney General Roy Cooper said methamphetamine byproducts - five to seven pounds of waste for every pound of the drug generated - are being dumped along roadsides, in waterways and into sewer systems. "We've got not only to be concerned about fire potential, but a more serious, long-term consideration is how it affects the environment," said Charles Moody, the State Bureau of Investigation's special agent in charge for the western district. The number of labs discovered by the SBI jumped from nine in 1999 to 177 last year. Watauga County led the state with more than 30. In the first four months of this year, agents have uncovered 108 clandestine labs statewide. Apart from the danger they pose to neighbors, each illegal lab also costs taxpayers from \$4,000 to \$10,000 to clean up. As the number of clandestine labs have grown, so have reports of landfill and transfer station fires, according to Al Hetzell, waste management specialist in the Asheville office of the state's Solid Waste Section. Since the first of the year, Hetzell said nine meth-related incidents have occurred in 10 western North Carolina counties. "We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg, I'm afraid," Hetzell said. Mike Gladden, McDowell County's public works director, said his transfer station workers come across the byproducts of methamphetamine manufacturing or have a small fire once a month or so. "We can just about link all of our fire problems to meth materials," he said. "We're not trained to handle this stuff. If it's got a strange odor to it, by the time you breathe that much, you're in jeopardy." Hetzell has been trying to educate solid waste workers about the potential dangers. He had talked with the workers in Burke County just a couple of weeks before the fire there. "It's critical that the people handling the waste know what they are dealing with," he said. Watts, the loader operator, said he recognized meth byproducts in the trash that caught fire. "It's every week they're busting one of these labs," Watts said. "It is a real problem now." He said he was exposed to smoke while trying to get people and the burning material out of the building. His throat was burned and the fumes made him sick, but he suffered no serious injuries. Next time, however, he'll make sure the people are out and not worry about the building. "We're not endangering ourselves," he said. "We're not equipped for this. (1:45)

May 20, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The state's Heritage Trust Board has authorized its staff to work out a deal to preserve the top of Sassafras Mountain, the state's highest peak at 3,560 feet. Many residents fear that if the state doesn't buy the land, it could be sold to a private developer - as Duke and its subsidiaries have done along Lake Keowee and Highway 11. The state wants to buy the two acres at the top of the mountain from Duke Energy. "The main thing we don't know is what the owner will sell it for and what it would be worth on the market," said Tom Kohlsaat, the trust's director. The property is one of three main tracts left out of the Jocassee Gorges purchase, which preserved 32,000 acres in northern Pickens and Oconee counties. About 5,000 acres on the North Carolina side of the mountain are owned by U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C. - a tree farmer who regularly receives the ire of environmental groups for his congressional voting record. He bought the land 20 years ago from Champion International Paper Co. for \$1.9 million. Pickens County residents who frequent Sassafras have feared for years that Taylor would buy the two acres from Duke, allowing him to develop and close off access to the peak. The state is in preliminary discussions, according to Mike Willis, a spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources. Duke Energy would not comment on land sale negotiations, said spokesman Tim Pettit. DNR staff will now study the site and prepare a report. Before the land can switch hands, five groups must endorse the deal including the Heritage Trust board, the full DNR board, the Budget and Control Board, the Joint Bond Review Committee and the Legislature. Gov. Mark Sanford has insisted that public money not be used to purchase the land during lean budget times, but spokesman Will Folks said the governor supports purchasing the land with private money. (1:45)

June 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mark Sanford says he will continue to meet with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue during the summer about a compact between the states clearly defining their water rights to the Savannah River. Now that both Legislatures have adjourned, Sanford can move forward in trying to formalize the way the states share the river that divides them. "It'll have to be taken care of at our level," Sanford said during a recent visit to Aiken. "If not, it'll become a feeding frenzy." Five years of drought lowered water levels at Lake Thurmond and officials almost stopped releasing water downstream in the Savannah River in 2002. The levels were just 3 feet shy of the point where the Army Corps of Engineers would stop releasing water downstream. The Corps operates Thurmond Dam. "We would probably not be able to meet the water-quality standards below that," said Bill Lynch, a senior project manager for the Corps who is about two years into a four-year comprehensive study of the river. "There'd be economic damages, environmental damages and water-supply problems, and we almost went there." Officials estimate that 500 cities, counties, industries and businesses pull hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the Savannah River basin every year. If the water release would have stopped, state Department of Natural Resources hydrologist Bud Badr said the Aiken and Augusta, Ga. area would have been unable to pull from the Savannah within days. "The water that we had 100 years ago is more or less the same as we have now," Badr said. "However, the demand for that water is growing all the time." The South has been blessed with an abundance of water, Badr said. Western states and crowded Northern states already have battled over water rights, often in court. Judges have historically ruled in favor of basic needs like drinking water over industrial growth, said Stephen Spitz, a University of South Carolina professor who served on Sanford's water law review committee. "It would be in the interest of each state to very carefully look at what it's using the water for," Spitz said. "We need to be certain about what rights we have. It's pretty clear that there's going to come a time when we have to do something." Guarding South Carolina's share of the river is especially important because the state uses far less water than Georgia, Sanford's review committee noted in its report released in April. "It's about time that we have 50 percent of the assimilative capacity of the river," Badr said. There is fear that cities like Atlanta will take coveted water from the Savannah River that nearby residents depend on. But a 16-county metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, formed three years ago at the behest of that state's legislature, outlined the region's needs and didn't include the Savannah to meet them, said Napoleon Caldwell, the senior planning and policy adviser for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. By law, he said, Atlanta couldn't even consider tapping into the Savannah until 2030. "It is far, far, far more possible that the removal of water to meet needs outside the basin will happen on the South Carolina side than the Georgia side," Caldwell said. (1:45)

June 8, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina is in the early stages of a drought, just a year after a four-year dry period ended, the state Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday. The department declared the state to be in an incipient drought - the first level of severity, followed by moderate, severe and extreme. Rainfall has been five to 10 inches below normal in most parts of the state since January. Clemson has seen the greatest rainfall deficit with 13.6 inches and Myrtle Beach has the smallest deficit with 2.7 inches. While current conditions are not nearly as severe as the record drought of 1998 through 2002, the lack of rain is threatening agriculture, reducing stream flow and increasing the intensity of fires. The National Weather Service said in late May that Anderson and Laurens counties and southern Greenville County were experiencing severe drought conditions. State Climatologist Hope Mizzell said that declaration was based on one index, the U.S. Drought Monitor, while the state Natural Resources Department and Drought Response Committee uses multiple indicators to make its determination. Rivers in South Carolina are flowing at low water levels, but the state's lakes have remained at normal levels, said the state's chief hydrologist, Bud Badr. Dave Tompkins, farmer's market director for the state Agriculture Department, said farmers are saying it could be a short season because of heat and lack of rain. He said there had been some impact on crop quantity and quality. But the state is seeing an early crop of watermelons and cantaloupes, and a good crop of peaches, Tompkins said. Wildfire losses over the past seven months have been slightly lower than average despite

the rainfall deficit, but Larry Barr with the state Forestry Commission said fires are becoming harder to control. The Department of Health and Environmental Control reported few complaints of shallow ground water. During an incipient drought the Natural Resources Department increases monitoring and notification of drought status. The agency encourages water systems and industries to monitor conditions and implement drought plans. The Drought Response Committee decided it would convene the full drought committee in the next two weeks if the dry conditions continue. (1:45)

June 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Environmentalists are concerned that thousands of new homes planned on the shore of Lake Keowee could harm the quality of the water. The lake provides drinking water to homes in Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties. State regulations allow septic tanks within 50 feet of the shoreline. Robert Swank, a former engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency, said that's too close and could affect water quality. Sewage in septic systems percolates through the soil, cleaning it of microbes and other pollutants. In other states, septic setbacks are typically 100 feet from lakes. An effort to increase the state septic setback regulation died a year ago in the General Assembly, and nothing was passed during the legislative session that just ended. Developers and other opponents say bigger setbacks would force bigger lots and higher costs. For now, the Greenville Water System is monitoring the lake's water quality with daily water testing, said Cameron Ferguson, director of water resources. (1:45)

June 29, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Earlier this month, state officials declared a drought had returned to South Carolina. But then the rains came. Now the drought declaration has been lifted for most counties in the state, although 18 counties from the Pee Dee down to Orangeburg and Charleston are still considered dry. But if the rains continue, those counties should be lifted from the drought by next week, said state climatologist Hope Mizzell. Since the drought declaration three weeks ago, it has rained 19 of 21 days at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. Columbia has received almost 10 inches of rain during June - about twice as much as normal. But still, for the year, Columbia is almost 2 inches below normal. Mizzell said the rain has been uneven, which made it difficult to lift the drought status in some places. "There were a number of locations in each county that haven't received above normal rainfall," she said. The heavy rain in recent days helped raise the levels of rivers and streams, said Masaaki Kiuchi, a hydrologist with the state Department of Natural Resources. "Rivers and streams are normal or above normal and even the lakes are above normal for this time of year," he said. Most of Upstate South Carolina has received more than 4 inches of rain in recent weeks. But even there, the rain has been scattered. Laurens County, for instance, has received only between 1 and 2 inches. "Laurens is a bull's-eye," Mizzell said. "There's no meteorological way to explain it." South Carolina can expect a similar rainy pattern during the coming weeks and while rainfall should be normal, there may not be extra to help places with deficits, said Patricia Tanner, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Greer. "If we keep it up at this rate, we'll get close to normal, but I don't see us catching up unless we get a lot of rain," she said. The Greenville-Spartanburg airport is still 14 inches below normal rainfall since last Labor Day. Rain along the coast has been scattered as well during recent weeks. While the Myrtle Beach area received less than an inch during June, an area north of Beaufort recorded more than 12 inches. (1:45)

June 30, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has denied a request from a North Carolina company to build a construction landfill near Wellford. DHEC rejected Griffin Brothers' application last week, saying the landfill did not meet Spartanburg County's solid waste disposal plan. Griffin Brothers wanted to build a 212-acre construction and demolition landfill. The site was about a mile from the Palmetto Landfill, which accepted about 1 million tons of

commercial and household solid wastes last year. Residents in the Cambridge subdivision fought the Griffin Brothers project, with the help of Spartanburg County Council and local attorney Gary Poliakoff. County Council rewrote 27 items in the solid waste disposal plan to prevent the proposed landfill from receiving DHEC approval. "This community has carried the burden of the Palmetto Landfill for nearly 30 years," Poliakoff said. "To allow another landfill to locate here now would be a gross injustice." The company should make a decision within 60 days on whether to appeal the DHEC ruling, said Ron Gilkerson, a Griffin Brothers geologist. (1:45)

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays (airs weekly)	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

DESCRIPTION:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

April 7, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

Republicans vying for U.S. Senate faced each other in their first statewide televised debate on Wednesday and touted goals to tackle wasteful government spending, education and national security. The debate at Furman University was a chance for the candidates to introduce themselves to a statewide audience and attempt to grab some of the front-runner momentum from former Gov. David Beasley. Jim DeMint, a third-term congressman, highlighted his experience in Washington, while Charleston real estate developer Thomas Ravenel said he was not a career politician and offered fresh ideas. Former Attorney General Charlie Condon stayed on his message to be a fiscal conservative, while Myrtle Beach Mayor Mark McBride said he would abolish the U.S. Education Department. Bluffton businesswoman Orly Benny Davis said she wanted to pump more resources into South Carolina's tourism industry to boost the state's economy. While the race has the potential to turn negative leading up to the June 8 primary, the candidates mostly stuck to the issues. Beasley, who said 110,000 jobs were created while he led the state, now blames bad trade agreements for job loss in South Carolina and companies taking their business overseas. "I firmly believe that if we have free trade that is fair Americans will prosper," he said. DeMint took the first whack at Beasley, saying he lost 6,000 textile jobs during his one term as governor. The congressman also defended free trade policies and urged for health care reform and lower utility costs to keep companies in South Carolina. The candidates were split on federal education reform efforts but agreed more local control would benefit the state. "As someone who has been on the education committee, I firmly believe that we need to expand choices in education, allow schools to specialize," DeMint said. Superintendent of Education Inez Tenenbaum and former police officer Ben Frasier are seeking the Democratic nomination. (1:45)

April 8, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A 15-year-old honors student who has lived in South Carolina for most of her life is getting help in her fight to remain in the country from U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. The Republican senator told Griselda Lopez Negrete on Wednesday that he is filing a private bill to make her a citizen. As long as the bill is pending in Congress, Griselda cannot be deported to Mexico. "It's overwhelming," said Griselda, who was in Washington to talk to Graham about a bill in Congress that would protect some immigrant students from deportation. "At first, I didn't understand what he was saying. It means I will be able to finish high school." The Silver Bluff High School student was 2 years old when her mother brought her to Aiken County. Her mother died of an aneurysm when she was 8. She has relatives who live legally in the United States, but none qualify her to stay here. She remembers little of her relatives in San Juan Palmira, a town of about 300 homes in Mexico's central plain. "I promise you this, that our office will make sure that you have every avenue available to you legally," Graham told the girl, the (Columbia) State reported. "We will work with your attorneys. We will make sure that we file a private bill that will give you a chance to finish school." Private bills deal with individual constituents and rarely pass. Another South Carolina student, Hitesh Tolani, has remained in South Carolina as a private bill pends in the U.S. House. Tolani's bill has been passed by the Senate. Tolani, a Wofford College student who has lived in Columbia since he was a toddler, faces deportation to India. Griselda said she knows every young person in her situation cannot have a private bill and reminded Graham why she had come to Washington. "I really like the idea of working things out with The Dream Act," she told him. The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act would allow students to apply for legal residency if they entered the United States before they were 16, have lived here for at least five years and have graduated from high school or are enrolled in college. Graham told Griselda that he didn't expect the act to pass this year. Graham also said he had some problems with it, including its lack of an age limit that could allow people much older than Griselda to apply for residency. (1:45)

April 7, 2004

9:00 am – 12 noon

News Cut-In

DESCRIPTION

National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleeza Rice, gave her testimony to the 9/11 Commission.

April 13, 2004

8:30 pm – 9:38 pm

Presidential News Conference

DESCRIPTION

President George Bush spoke live to the American people regarding action in Iraq.

April 20, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A proposal to give Greenville County workers a paid day off honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has been rejected at a county council meeting. The council rejected the latest proposal Tuesday, and members would have

to suspend parliamentary rules in order to reintroduce it this year. Greenville is the only county in South Carolina that does not have a paid holiday honoring King, but Chairwoman Phyllis Henderson introduced the new ordinance. The proposal would have set 10 paid holidays, replacing the employee floating holiday with a day in honor of King. Last year, a split Greenville County Council rejected two proposals for the holiday. Instead, employees now vote on which holidays to observe, and the MLK holiday was not selected. The current policy lets employees choose five of their 10 holidays. Some council members have said they didn't believe anything had changed since last year when it gave employees a chance to choose which holidays to take off with pay. Supporters of a paid King holiday were discouraged, particularly by the lack of council discussion. (1:45)

April 26, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mark Sanford signed into law Monday a bill that makes it illegal to entice or stalk children on the Internet. The law becomes the first in South Carolina that prohibits adults from stalking, luring or enticing children for the purpose of abduction or sexual assault. "We've got to make our state a safer place and this new law does a lot to get us there," Sanford said in a statement. The law increases the maximum penalties for all obscenity offenses involving minors and the multi-county limitation placed on the state grand jury for investigating obscenity offenses would be removed. The law includes an impossibility defense provision, which makes it illegal to stalk or lure someone reasonably believed to be younger than 18. Attorney General Henry McMaster says the provision prevents predators caught in an online sting operation from using the defense that they were really talking to a police officer - not a minor. (1:45)

May 5, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The Senate on Tuesday began working on the state's \$5.3 billion spending plan, with lawmakers debating lottery funding and trying again to increase the state's tax on cigarettes. Some senators expressed concern about the state's growing reliance on lottery funds for education spending. The Senate budget proposal puts more money into per-pupil spending and technical college tuition assistance and less money into buses and math, science and reading programs. The plan puts \$1,852 in per-pupil spending - \$25 more than the House approved but still much less than a state formula says the General Assembly should spend. How to spend lottery revenue is becoming an annual argument in the General Assembly. Other senators said difficult decisions had to be made in tough budget times. Although similar amendments have failed in recent years, Democrats tried again Tuesday to increase the state's cigarette tax. Sen. John Land, D-Manning, proposed an amendment to increase the cigarette tax by 53 cents per pack to a total of 60 cents. That would raise \$170.9 million, which he said would go toward Medicaid and increasing the base student cost to \$2,100. Land and other Democrats said the tax increase would be temporary and would not change permanent law. But opponents argued that the amendment was a general tax increase that

affects more than half of the population. The amendment died when it was ruled out of order. After more than seven hours of debate, the Senate gave the appropriations bill second reading. Senators planned to continue debate and take up additional amendments Wednesday morning. (1:45)

May 11, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

After months of squabbling, the mayor and City Council members of this small northeast Georgia town resigned Tuesday and set a special election in July to choose a new government. "Things cannot continue as it was going," mayor pro-tem Gwinette Bryant said of arguments about budgets, who should sign the checks, who should be the town's attorney. The spats _ including one that had Mayor James Scarboro and Councilman Dick Barber yelling in each other's face while each had one hand on the gavel _ have become so fierce at times that sheriff's deputies were needed for security. Some of the 1,000 residents of Bowman, about 12 miles northwest of Elberton, have been calling recently for Scarboro's resignation. On Monday, he agreed to resign _ as long as the five council members also stepped down. "This is an opportunity for the city of Bowman to get involved in their city and elect people who will work to fix the problems," said Scarboro, whose wife, Barbara, was on the council. By Tuesday afternoon, all had turned in written resignations to Elbert County Probate Judge Susan Sexton. "We've been trying to get the mayor out of office, and he's fighting us, and if this is the way to do it, well," Barber said. The special election will be held July 20 in conjunction with the state primaries. In the absence of elected officials, city clerk Gwen Eppinger will continue running the city government's day-to-day operations. One issue that split the council last year was the firing of former 20-year city clerk Betty Jo Maxwell, Scarboro's first cousin. Scarboro and Maxwell did not get along, and the mayor led the charge to terminate her employment. She sued the city and reached a settlement, but didn't return to work as clerk. Scarboro overwhelmingly defeated incumbent Mayor Gary Dudley in 2001, the same year the majority of the council, including his wife won election. Whoever is elected in July will finish out the current terms. The resigning council members could run for the empty seats themselves. (1:45)

May 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Two decades as an Air Force judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer have made U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham the legal point man in Congress on the issue of abuse in an Iraqi prison. After a week of grueling examinations that

included a closed-door screening of pictures deemed too inflammatory to release, Graham, a Republican from South Carolina said the situation at Baghdad's Abu Gharib prison "highlights command failure like I have never seen before." An Air Force Reserve colonel and reserve judge for the Air Force's Court of Criminal Appeals, Graham is the only U.S. senator in a National Guard or Reserve unit. On the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has used that special insight into the Uniform Code of Military Justice as he questions what happened. Graham expects the abuse probe to lead to prosecutions at much higher levels after deals are made with soldiers in the lowest ranks, following a strategy used to bust street drug rings. "The command infrastructure failed the troops and commanders need to be looked at very hard in terms of criminal responsibility, dereliction of duty and other potential charges," Graham said. "It would be a sad day if the only people punished here are sergeants and privates," Graham said. "I believe these new photos demonstrate some level of involvement other than rogue MPs." Devoid of accountability and training, the situation at the prison was "a cocktail for disaster," Graham said. Graham's expertise on the Judge Advocate General staff wins him praise from his Senate colleagues and media attention. "No one else on the committee has his knowledge of military law," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. His experience "as a JAG officer with both prosecutorial and defense experience has given him a special insight into the issues that we're confronting," said Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., who also sits on the Armed Services Committee. "His questions have been very pointed and helpful in sorting out the situation we're investigating." Six years ago, Graham was thrust into the headlines as he helped lead U.S. House impeachment prosecution against President Bill Clinton. Viewing the pictures this week was "numbing," Graham said. "The level of abuse is felony type abuse; the sexual misconduct was apparently very rampant," said Graham. (1:45)

June 2, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina is set to receive more than \$32 million in housing grants that will be used mostly to revitalize public housing facilities and improve neighborhoods, U.S. Rep. Jim DeMint, R-SC, said Wednesday. Revitalization projects in Spartanburg and Columbia will receive \$20 million and \$10.7 million grants respectively. Statewide, about \$1 million will promote home ownership opportunities by helping with down payment and closing costs to low-income and minority households. The Revitalization of Distressed Public Housing program, known as HOPE VI, was created in 1993. (1:45)

June 8, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Former Gov. David Beasley stoked the fires of his political career Tuesday, advancing to a runoff against U.S. Rep. Jim DeMint. With 99 percent of the precincts reporting, Beasley held 37 percent. DeMint got 26 percent of the vote and held on in the face of a tough challenge from Charleston developer Thomas Ravenel, who followed closely with 25 percent. "We started in this race last and we ended up in this race first," Beasley said. "We're prepared to go head to head with either." DeMint said he was ready to face Beasley in the runoff on June 22. "Mission one is accomplished. We're in the playoffs," he said. Ravenel, a Charleston multimillionaire who financed his own campaign, had hoped to knock DeMint out of the running but was poised to join his campaign instead to defeat Beasley. "Congressman Jim DeMint - and I'm not conceding to him yet - but here's a man who like myself ran on ideas. He's a fabulous individual," Ravenel said as the final votes were counted. In unofficial results, state

Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum won the Democratic nomination. She faced Ben Frasier, a former police officer. (1:45)

June 10, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

During a school board meeting Thursday night, nine of 11 members voted for a 3 mill increase in property taxes for the county. School is over for the summer, but when the bell rings for the new year, you could see new changes in the classroom. "We have taken three steps back the last three years with budget cuts. This year, we're trying to take a step forward at least and replace some of those teachers that we've lost," said School Board Chair, Tommie Reece. The goal is to lower class sizes. Parents say overcrowding is a problem and some school board members want to solve it by hiring 121 teachers for the school year and to do that they may have to dip in the reserve fund or raise property taxes. "It's always a balancing act to get the priorities, look at local revenue and see where we can get the most bang for the buck basically," commented Reece. Some board members also want to put aside money for nearly 60 more teachers for expected growth in the area. Some school board members say they will try to avoid cuts and they want to hire teacher's aides for in-school suspension in middle and high schools. The 3 mill increase could mean residents will pay 3.4 million dollars in property taxes over the next five years. (1:45)

June 26, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina counties could be losing millions of dollars in revenue because most do not bother to track down those who don't pay their car tax bills, relying mostly on tickets issued by law enforcement to catch delinquent taxpayers. The uncollected money varies across counties, from \$6.8 million in Richland County last year to \$16.7 million in Charleston County. "I can't believe they are leaving that much money on the table every year," said Don Weaver, president of the South Carolina Association of Taxpayers. "That's a sizable chunk of change, especially in these tight times." Tracking the exact amount of money lost is difficult because the Department of Revenue does not track car tax collection. But county statistics offer a glimpse of how much revenue is lost. Richland County had an 88.8 percent collection rate for the budget year that ended June 30, 2003. The county billed \$60.8 million and collected \$54 million, leaving a \$6.8 million shortfall. Lexington County had a 90 percent collection rate last year and a \$4.8 million shortfall. Charleston County collected 73 percent of car taxes last year, with \$16.7 million

uncollected. County officials say there are legitimate reasons for most unpaid bills. The owner might have moved away or sold the car, for instance. But they acknowledge that enforcement of the laws largely depends on drivers realizing their license plate decals are about to expire or on police to ticket those whose decals have expired. State Highway Patrol troopers wrote 961 tickets for expired decals last year and have written 292 so far this year, the agency says. Part of problem with billing car owners lies with Department of Motor Vehicles records used to contact taxpayers. Information, such as addresses, are not always current or complete in the state's vehicle database, county officials say. But officials say much of that problem can be solved by attentive taxpayers. "You can avoid a whole lot of hassle if you just pay attention," said DMV spokeswoman Beth Parks. Parks and county officials say drivers should notify the DMV if they move or sell their cars outside of the county. Counties' enforcement methods are "not exactly aggressive," said Robert Croom, assistant director of the state Association of Counties. Some county officials say it would take too much time and money to create systems to track down delinquent taxpayers. "There are ways to do it," said Richland County Treasurer David Adams said. "Is the payoff enough? I don't know. Government does what it can and leaves the rest of the burden on the taxpayer." Some counties have benefited financially from cracking down on delinquent taxpayers. In Chester County, Treasurer Jack Kindle realized in 2000 that there was a backlog of unpaid car tax bills totaling \$1.5 million. Kindle targeted drivers "flipping tags" from a higher-valued car to a lower-valued car and then switching them back after they paid the car tax, new car owners with dealer-issued plates and drivers who register out of state. By 2003, the amount of unpaid car tax bills in Chester County had dropped to \$85,000. In Horry County, treasurer Johnny C. Allen is planning to hire a temporary employee who would be paid \$16,800 a year to find people with out-of-state licenses. "He's going to drive around from hospital to hospital, from school to school" looking for out-of-state tags, Allen said. Allen wants to collect \$1.5 million in car taxes. (1:45)

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

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**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 5:30 am BUSINESS WEEK
(airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

April 14, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

Tyco is closing its Marietta plant, a move that will affect about 335 employees. The company that manufactures hygiene products is consolidating operations at a plant in Greenwood, S.C. The move is designed to keep the company competitive, as the plant in South Carolina makes a similar product line, said Shay Toland, director of communications for Tyco's health care division. The closure of the Marietta plant will take place over the next 12 to 15 months. (1:45)

April 18, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

Former BI-LO CEO Jon Wilken says he is interested in making a bid on the Mauldin-based supermarket chain. Wilken, a Greenville businessman who ran BI-LO from 1997 to 2001, said Friday he was working with investors but would not disclose further details of his planned bid. The grocery's Dutch parent company, Royal Ahold, announced

in February it was getting rid of the Southern supermarket chain in an effort to cut debt and strengthen its financial position. Ahold didn't name potential buyers, but Anders Moberg, chief executive, said then that the Dutch company hopes to "identify those buyers whose strategic priorities include further strengthening these businesses." The broker that Ahold hired to sell BI-LO, Timothy W. Carroll, senior investment banker with William Blair & Co. of Chicago, would not talk about the Wilken's plans. BI-LO operates nearly 300 stores in the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee. The company has about 27,000 employees. (1:45)

April 21, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Innovative Container, which builds and reconditions containers, plans to expand its site and add workers to its Upstate plant, according to the state Commerce Department. The company says it will invest up to \$2 million and hire up to 40 more employees over the next three years. The facility currently has 80 workers. Innovative Container ships industrial packaging throughout the United States. It also reconditions and recycles drums and intermediate bulk containers. The state Commerce Department says Innovative Container has more than tripled its gross revenues in each of the past two years. (1:45)

April 22, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

With gasoline prices at record highs in South Carolina, motorists should be cutting back and buying less gas resulting in a drop in revenues from the state's 16 cent-per-gallon gas tax. But that's not happening. Indeed, state gas tax revenues last month were about 25 percent higher than March a year ago, said Michael Covington, director of governmental affairs for the state Department of Transportation. "Normally, you would expect, all things being equal, that consumption would decline. Historically that's what has happened," he said. But he said the increase likely has to do with an improving economy and motorists vacationing closer to home, so more gas is sold in the state. The average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas in the state on Thursday was a record \$1.673. Records are being set almost daily as gas prices increase due to unrest in Venezuela, OPEC's decision to cut oil production and a recovering world economy demanding more fuel. Demand for gasoline this summer is expected to be at least as strong as last year. "OPEC has cut production but we are turning the corner for an extremely high demand with the summer driving season." At the same time, "refineries are not able to operate as efficiently as they could. They are working on 15 different summer blends (of gasoline) required in different parts of the country," she added. "We are not expecting any price drops until later in the summer, possibly July." Covington said state gas tax revenues last month were \$35 million, up from \$28 million in March of last year. He said while the increase can be explained by the stronger economy, there will be a "point of diminishing returns" at which motorists would sharply curtail buying gas. (1:45)

April 26, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Kemet Corp. said the company lost \$52.1 million, or 60 cents a share, in the quarter ending in March because of after-tax charges. During the same period a year ago, the company lost \$16.9 million, or 19 cents a share. The

2004 loss was \$2.1 million, or 2 cents a share, before the charges. The company spent \$50.4 million to end a defined pension benefit plan and \$2.8 million in relocation and employee termination costs. The company began

last July relocating 550 jobs to China and Mexico. The company makes capacitors used in products including cell phones and computers. Kemet also reported \$117.1 million in sales, up from \$106.5 million in March 2003. For the fiscal year, Kemet reported \$433.9 million in sales, down from \$447.3 million in 2003. Kemet said the company lost \$112 million, or \$1.30 a share, before charges, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004. That compares with a loss of \$56 million, or 65 cents a share, in 2003. Shares of Kemet closed up 10 cents at \$13.60 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange. (1:45)

April 30, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Another textile plant plans to close in the Upstate, putting 50 employees out of work this summer. Hamrick Industries told its employees Thursday in a memo that it will close a dying plant the first week of July. Increasing costs prompted the company's decision, Vice President Kelly Hamrick told Gaffney radio station WAGI. The Gaffney plant was one of the last of its kind left in the United States, Hamrick said. (1:45)

May 3, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Business is picking up in one area of the city. Developers in Mauldin broke ground on a new office park today. The Brookfield South Business Park is being constructed in a prime location just off I-385 at Butler Road. Area residents and employers indicate that the progress is wonderful. They feel fortunate in Mauldin to see the progress and development on every end. The Brookfield South Business Park will consist of two 134,000 square foot buildings. (1:45)

May 5, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mike Easley on Tuesday announced a plan to help small businesses by exempting them from the first \$20,000 of corporate income tax levied by the state. The exemption would eliminate the tax entirely for more than half of all businesses that pay the 6.9 percent rate. It would also reduce the effective tax rate by at least 1 percentage point for 80 percent of small businesses that pay the corporate income tax, according to Easley. The proposal will be included in the adjusted budget for the 2004-05 fiscal year that Easley is to submit to the General Assembly next week. "This plan will provide targeted tax relief to existing companies and will provide an incentive for small businesses to grow in our state," Easley said in a news release. But the tax exemption would help a limited number of the state's small businesses, many of which have no income to be taxed or are structured in ways, such as partnerships, that do not fall under the corporate income tax requirement, the state Department of Revenue said. The governor's office said it estimates that the small business exemption would cost \$47.6 million in revenue in the coming fiscal year. Easley also wants to offer small employers tax-free savings accounts that workers could use to cover medical expenses. Such flexible spending accounts are often offered to employees of large corporations. Any taxpayer with certain insurance plans would be allowed to contribute up to \$2,600 a year (\$5,150 for families) to such an account, Easley said. Making the accounts tax-free would cost an estimated \$1.4 million in revenue. Small business groups applauded the proposals by Easley, who is seeking re-election. "We have supported these proposals for some time and will work actively to ensure that the General Assembly enacts

them into law," said Perri Morgan, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business. Republican candidates pounced on the governor's plan. "Given the governor's history of raising taxes, I suspect his new proposal is more a matter of election-year politics than a true commitment to tax relief," said George Little, a Moore County insurance executive who has made tax cuts a focus of his campaign. (1:45)

May 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Denny's Corp. reported a first-quarter loss despite an increase in sales. The company's headquarters are located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The company said Thursday it lost \$8.7 million, equal to 21 cents a share, in the three months ending March 31, compared with a loss of \$9.1 million, or 22 cents a share, for the same period a year ago. Revenues increased to \$229.4 million from \$220.8 million a year earlier. Operating revenues were \$10.9 million for the quarter - up from \$10.4 million in the year-ago quarter. But the company recorded \$19.4 million in interest expense that led to the loss. Sales at restaurants open more than a year increased 6.4 percent, company president and chief executive Nelson J. Marchioli said. "This is our highest quarterly same-store sales increase since we began reporting the measure 10 years ago," Marchioli said. "Our value breakfast measure continues to resonate with our customers as our featured \$4.99 breakfasts have been a top seller since they were introduced in August of last year." Denny's was down three cents a share at \$2.70 in over-the-counter trading early Thursday. (1:45)

May 10, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A loophole in state law has two cities in the opposite parts of the state fighting over the same money. Myrtle Beach area leaders say they worked hard to get \$7 million earmarked for a new trade center, but a state economic bill may allow Greenville to qualify for the money to revitalize the Palmetto Expo Center there. The state Legislature can't earmark money for specific cities in its bills, but can place requirements that knock other cities out of contention, said Bruce Ransom, a Clemson University professor. "Normally, they make it specific enough that only the intended city can apply," he said. Apparently, there's a dispute over whether that happened in the state's much-debated Life Sciences bill. A committee of legislators and the State Budget and Control Board will review both cities' applications, said Jim Bourey, Greenville's city manager. Greenville Mayor Knox White said while the money may have been earmarked with Myrtle Beach in mind, it wasn't specified in the bill. "If you read this thing, the Palmetto Expo would qualify," he said. Myrtle Beach area leaders think a 500,000 square-foot trade center next to its convention center will help transform the northeast corner of the state, Greene said. Greenville business owners hope the money will revitalize the Expo Center by attracting more visitors and traffic. The city bought the financially troubled center almost three years ago, and City Council approved \$18.6 million in renovations in August. So far, the city has set aside \$12.4 million in federal and bond revenue funds to start revitalization. It's a sign that city leaders think the center, built in 1964 to house textile supershow, can serve Greenville's transition to an automotive hub centered on a research park. Greenville could learn in 30 days whether it gets the money, Bourey said. (1:45)

May 11, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mark Sanford signed a bill into law Tuesday that could ease the regulatory burdens of starting and running small businesses in South Carolina. The Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act establishes a permanent 11-person committee that will examine the impact of regulations on small businesses statewide. "This bill is all about making life easier for our state's small businesses, which is a big step forward in stimulating job creation and economic growth in South Carolina," Sanford said. Under the new law, any state lawmaker or agency wishing to propose a regulation to the General Assembly must first submit their plans to the not-yet-formed Regulatory Review Committee. The state-appointed panel will then examine the proposal and determine whether it poses a significant cost to small businesses. The committee will not be able to block new regulations, but can make recommendations for changes. Hunter Howard, president of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, said the act will promote job and wage growth in the state by helping small businesses reduce their regulatory overhead and focus on expansion. Other advocates agreed, saying regulatory costs are a bigger burden to small businesses because they lack the legal expertise and compliance officers that negotiate matters for their larger counterparts. Nine other states have enacted similar regulatory flexibility laws in the past two years. Georgia and North Carolina currently have flexibility bills pending in their legislatures. (1:45)

May 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

School ends in a few weeks and that means teenagers are looking for summer jobs. Several new businesses are opening along Woodruff Road and store are taking applications. "I had to get a job and I started out washing dishes and worked my way up the ladder," said Eric Barber. He started working at Bertolo's Pizza in Greenville as a summer employee when he was 16 years-old. That was three years ago, he's now working full time and is the Chief Pizza Chef for the restaurant. "It's a lot of fun, it pays well and it's pretty easy," commented Barber. Most of the employees who work at Bertolo's are 16 to 20 years-old. So if you want to get your foot in the door to get a piece of this pie, it helps to be flexible. Jacob Lutz is a manager. "We use the teenage students to wait the tables, run the register for us and the sandwich unit," said Lutz. Unemployment is on the rise, but there are signs that things may be changing, at least for the summer. Just ride around the Upstate and you will see that store managers are posting "Now Hiring" signs. However, if cell phones, computers and televisions are what you're looking for, stores like Radio Shack are also looking for you. Aziz Buhasi hires summer help for the store. "We're looking to hire about two people from now until the end of summer and those people can stay with us when summer picks up," commented Buhasi. As of March, the unemployment rate in South Carolina increased from 6.5% to 6.7% (1:45)

May 20, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Gov. Mark Sanford's plans to reduce the state's income tax won key support from Republican senators Thursday, but critics have said it benefits the top half of the state's income ladder. Two dozen of the Senate's 27 GOP members endorsed putting the Senate's version of the income tax reduction measure onto a bill that cleared the House on Wednesday. The House heavily amended the bill with a variety of tax measures Wednesday, but the Senate will take everything out and insert just the Senate's income tax plan. That action could come Tuesday, Sen. John Hawkins, R-Spartanburg said. "I just want to say a big thank you. Period. Exclamation point," Sanford said. The proposal moves the state's top income tax rate to 4.75 percent from 7 percent over several years. No break would be implemented in years when the state's revenues don't grow by 4 percent or more. Sanford said the bill is critical for job creation in South Carolina. (1:45)

May 21, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina's unemployment rate edged up slightly to 6.8 percent in April, the state Employment Security Commission reported Friday. The jobless rate was 6.7 percent in March. The April figure is still well-below a nine-year high of 7.1 percent recorded last October. Despite the increase in unemployment, the state's labor market showed a number of positive signs in April, the agency said. Total nonfarm employment rose 16,000 during the month, the largest April increase in the past ten years. The leisure and hospitality sector posted 7,100 new jobs, professional and business services added 3,800 and retail trade gained 2,200. Manufacturers across the state added 200 jobs, the second month in a row of gains, the commission said. Marlboro County had South Carolina's worst unemployment rate in March at 18.7 percent. Marion County was next at 17.0 percent. Beaufort County had the state's lowest jobless rate at 3.0 percent last month, a slight increase from March, followed by Lexington County with 3.4 percent. (1:45)

May 25, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The J.M. Smith Corp., a health care and technology services provider, has bought Integral Technical Services Inc. of Greenville. J.M. Smith will merge the company, which provides fiber optics and high-end cabling services, into its QS/1 Data Systems to create a new division, Integral Solutions. The new division will employ 70 people initially in offices in Spartanburg, Greenville and Columbia and will have combined revenue of \$10 million. J.M. Smith said it is South Carolina's fourth-largest privately held corporation with revenue of a billion dollars a year. (1:45)

May 26, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

An Upstate biomedical company plans to double its work force in the next five years, officials said. Poly-Med Inc. said Wednesday it would hire about 25 workers. The Anderson-based company, which develops materials for medical and pharmaceutical use, now employs 20 workers. In April, Poly-Med licensed a portfolio of its polymers and drug-delivery technologies to Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, based in Vancouver. "Their agreement with Angiotech will allow them to increase production, create additional high-paying jobs and invest for the long term in Anderson County," said Anderson County Council Chairman Clint Wright. (1:45)

May 27, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The recorded music service Muzak is adding 150 jobs at its headquarters here this summer, the company says. Muzak is centralizing some business functions from 44 offices around the country at the headquarters operation, company officials said. The centralization will make the company more efficient and better prepared for growth, said Lon Otremba, chief executive officer. Muzak hopes to have the new workers in place by July or August, Otremba said. The company will conduct a job fair here June 5. Muzak has 275 people in its headquarters here, and an additional 75 at its nearby office in Charlotte, N.C. Muzak has grown from 125,000 clients in 1998 to 350,000 now, said Kenny Kahn, Muzak's senior vice president. (1:45)

June 2, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A Spartanburg County plant is part of the \$215 million sale of Eastman Chemical properties to Apollo Management LP, a private investment firm. ABCO Industries of Roebuck is one of 17 plants worldwide that Eastman is selling for \$215 million to Apollo. The plant is one of the Eastman facilities that makes coatings, adhesives, polymers and inks — product lines that Eastman in 2003 said it planned to leave. The Roebuck plant has about 90 workers, part of the 2,100 employees who will work for Apollo after the deal closes later this year. Eastman stock closed at \$46.23 on Tuesday, down 11 cents on the New York Stock Exchange. (1:45)

June 4, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Roy Metal Finishing Co. plans to add a \$2.5 million, 30,000-square-foot facility to its operations and hire 20 new employees. Production at the new facility in Mauldin, about four miles from the 75,000-square-foot Roy Metal Finishing facility in Conestee, is expected to begin in October. The company has been based in Greenville for 42 years. About five years ago, it shifted its focus to the automotive sector from the textile, consumer products and hand tools sectors, said John Pazdan, vice president. The company, which currently has about 75 employees, already has begun hiring for the new positions and will continue through the end of the year, he said. Roy Metal provides corrosion protection coatings for the automotive markets. The new facility will process zinc and zinc alloys for a cast iron part on the underbody of the newest Mercedes model to be made in the United States. (1:45)

June 10, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

As part of a company-wide strategy to further expand into suburban markets, The Hertz Corporation has opened a Hertz Local Edition rental car facility in Greenville, S.C., marking the first suburban Hertz opening in the Greenville area. This opening represents Hertz' commitment to serving its suburban clientele looking to rent a car for insurance replacement needs, business trips, vacations and everyday purposes. Strategically located in Greenville's prominent mall, Verdae Marketfair, the new location provides Hertz customers with a full range of rental vehicles including minivans and compact through full-size cars. Pick-up and delivery service and insurance replacement rentals. The new Hertz Local Edition office, located at 101 Verdae Blvd. (1:45)

June 11, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Economic developers, private business executives, Clemson University administrators and state officials will travel to Germany next week to recruit foreign automotive companies. Between June 16-24, a 31-member delegation will converge on Germany's high-tech automotive sector to promote the Upstate. Upstate Alliance board chairman Charles Dalton said he expects Pickens and Oconee counties will be in the next wave of development opportunities as Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research gets under way. In the past, the Upstate has relied on investment from big name automotive manufacturing companies, such as Michelin, Bosch and BMW, for job creation and investment. Economic developers plan to push the advantages the automotive research center will

offer companies in the automotive industry, from development to marketing. Clemson hopes the center will serve as an incubator for startup businesses, as well as large corporations. (1:45)

June 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock

DESCRIPTION

Textile-mill employment in North Carolina rose modestly in April, its first increase in 15 months, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said. Preliminary figures from the federal agency show textile-mill jobs in the state increased by 400 in April.

"That's a real rarity," said David Trumbull, an official with the National Textile Association. The increase happened for only the fifth time since January of 2000. Only twice over that period has textile-mill employment remained steady. In the last 10 years, textile mills have lost 88,000 jobs in North Carolina. The increase in April - the most recent month for which figures are available - puts the current textile-mill population at 64,800. "When you have gotten so much bad news, you will take any (good) news you can get," Lloyd Wood, a spokesman for the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, said of the April increase. (1:45)

June 18, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped to 6.3 percent in May as the summer tourism season began, the state Employment Security Commission reported Friday. The jobless rate, down from a revised 6.7 percent in April, is the lowest since February when the state had the fourth-highest unemployment in the nation. The agency said the drop is a sign of continuing recovery for the state's economy. Total nonfarm employment rose 10,300 from the previous month. The state added 4,300 new leisure and hospitality jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities added 2,400 jobs, while construction gained 2,000. The number of manufacturing jobs declined by 100 after small gains in the last two consecutive months. The commission said the labor market should continue to expand in the next few months as tourism reaches its peak. Marlboro County had the worst unemployment rate in May at 17.6 percent. Marion County was next at 17 percent. Beaufort County had the state's lowest jobless rate at 2.9 percent last month. (1:45)

June 21, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Stueken, LLC will invest \$2 million in an expansion that's expected to create 10 new jobs, the Greenville Area Development Corporation announced Monday. Stueken, headquartered in Rinteln, Germany, makes high-precision metal parts at its Greenville facility. The company provides parts to major automotive suppliers in the world. The expansion will help the company enter markets outside the automotive sector, said vice president Mark Foote. The announcement comes as Commerce Secretary Bob Faith and Gov. Mark Sanford are in Germany to strengthen business alliances. Stueken opened its Fountain Inn facility in 1997 and now employs 30 associates in Greenville County. (1:45)

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 7:30 am	FORCE OF FAITH
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 8:00am	IN TOUCH MINISTRIES
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (60:00)

Sundays 9:00am	DAY OF DISCOVERY
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am	TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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DESCRIPTION: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Mon-Fri	10:00 am	MARTHA STEWART LIVING
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DESCRIPTION: A program filled with "how to" suggestions that include gardening, cooking, decorating, home repair and home improvements. (60:00)

April 3, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

The Spartanburg Phillies played their last game at Duncan Park in 1992. The stadium was built in the 1920's for the fans, the community and the Spartanburg Phillies. Over the years, the minor league team drew large crowds to the stadium. Hub Blankenship was the Phillies' General Manager from 1970-1974. "You go in, you get a hot dog, you get a soft drink..it's very economical for the whole family," said Blankenship. He says the team had great fans. "I remember one fan he was always giving the umpire a fit. He would run out there and say 'come on!', you can't see," said Blankenship. Bill Love is a Phillies fan and remembers going to the ball park. He lived in the Duncan Park Community. "You could put your window up and you could hear the sound of that bat hitting the ball and then across the lake it just magnifies," said Love. It's a childhood memory he's still fond of. "Then you hear the crowd going wild or whatever when you heard the Phillies scoring," commented Love. However, times changed and the Phillies had a couple of losing seasons, the fans stopped coming and the stadium was getting old. Bob Allen is a

city councilman who represents District four. "It was not economically viable for the Philadelphia team to keep the farm team here," said Allen. Now Duncan Park is in serious need of repair. "It needs refurbishing as you can tell from looking around," commented Allen. The Park now houses rusted rails, old seats and rundown facilities. Bob Allen says it would probably cost the city half a million dollars to fix the stadium, but it's money they don't have. However, baseball teams still play at the park. The love of the game and the crack of the bat keeps them coming back and it all started with the Phillies. "Every boy had a dream, every player had a dream to go on and a few of them made it, but it was worth the ride all the way." College Leagues and baseball teams like the Spartanburg Stingers still play at Duncan Park, but they know it will take more than baseball fans to keep the stadium open. (1:45)

April 7, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Accent Mobile Homes, Inc. will have to pay \$50,000 in a sexual harassment lawsuit settlement, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Wednesday. The EEOC had charged the company with sexually harassing two employees and firing one for complaining about the abuse. The lawsuit in U.S. District Court alleged that a manager at the company's sales center in Anderson subjected sales representatives Diana Ballew and Peggy Cox to a sexually hostile environment. The harassment included sexual comments, requests for dates and physical touching, the EEOC said. The lawsuit alleged that Accent fired Cox for complaining about harassment. The settlement also requires Accent to provide training to managers about sexual harassment. (1:45)

April 9, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A camp for the mentally disabled is in a real jam. Camp Spearhead is located between Highway 11 and Highway 276 near Table Rock. The animals are at the campsite and the workers are getting the area ready for campers to enjoy their summer away from home. It's like any other camp, with a carnival site, a camp fire and a miniature golf course. For Nick Rothenberger, Camp Spearhead is a special place. "I like to hang out with the counselors and campers and go swimming," said Nick. Nick is 24-years-old and is mentally disabled, but a dispute over a lease may keep campers like Nick home for the summer. "It would be disappointing for me because I have a lot of friends that go there," commented Nick. His family says the camp is a positive outlet for Nick and his friends. "To try to evict and close down Camp Spearhead for the summer is shocking and disappointing," said Leonard Rothenberger, Nick's father. Randy Murr is the Therapeutics Recreation Manager. He says members of the Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board are accusing the owners of the camp, The Greenville Civitan Club, of reneging on a 50 year lease agreement which was signed in April of 1992. "Now after honoring that original agreement for almost 12 years they would like to rewrite the lease," said Murr. (1:45)

April 13, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A man bass fishing ended up a hero Monday, saving a man who was stuck in the mud up to his chest in Lake Conestee. Nobody knows how 36-year-old Steve Camden got stuck or what he was doing at the lake. But Camden,

who was in fair condition Tuesday afternoon at a Greenville hospital, likely owes his life to Mike Slagle. The fisherman said he only comes to that spot on the lake in his canoe a few times a year and has no idea why he chose such a cold and rainy day to go fishing. "If the guy with the canoe had just not happened upon him, there is no doubt in my mind that he would have died there," Belmont Fire Chief Anthony Segars said. "He could have screamed his lungs out and wouldn't have been heard." Camden had been in the water at least four to five hours, Segars said. Slagle said he had caught two bass and thrown them back before noticing something "kind of purple" and covered in mud in the water Monday afternoon. Once Slagle realized it was a man, he tried to pull Camden out, but could only get him part of the way out of the mud. Slagle knew he needed help, but he didn't have a phone. So he made the agonizing decision to paddle half a mile back to call 911 at a convenience store. "I was just asking God to let him live until I could get back," Slagle said. When he returned with a friend, Camden was unconscious and had fallen back into the water, his head nearly submerged, Slagle said. "I believe he was drowning," Slagle said. "I held his head up with my boat paddle, and I could tell he must have been passed out." Slagle scrambled on the bank and grabbed Camden by the hair and pulled his head out of the water. He then wrapped his legs around Camden and pulled him out of the mud. "I just held on to him and kept telling him it's gonna to be all right." Heavy rains had washed sediment into the lake, making wading into the water a dangerous task, Greenville County Emergency Medical Services Lt. Eric Lutz said. "We were sinking up to our hips in it when we were trying to walk across," he said. Camden was taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital, where he was in fair condition Tuesday afternoon, spokeswoman Robyn Zimmerman said. "I thank the Lord I was able to help him," Slagle said. "I just hope he's gonna be all right." (1:45)

April 14, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

It's hard enough seeing a family member off to war, but finally seeing them return home safely, only to learn they will be going back to Iraq is heartbreaking. It may be business as usual at the Hair Studio, but for owners, Katie and Doug Simmons, serving clients isn't the only thought consuming their minds these days. "Apparently his rank is needed and he has to go back," explains Katie Simmons. Her 25 year old brother, Kyle Rayle already served eight months in Iraq, but in June he'll be sent back to the desert for an entire year. Doug Simmons, Kyle's brother-in-law says, "We felt lucky that we were able to get him back the first time, so now we're slowly trying to prepare ourselves for the whole event again." That includes preparing themselves for endless hours glued to the television. "Sometimes you're preparing yourself for the worst case scenario, are you going to find out that he's one of the ones that's been injured," says Doug. And when they're not watching the news, it's constant thoughts of where Kyle is and what he's going through. Katie says, "For a certain period of time there were attacks on him five times a day and then that went up 30 times a day....He could die at any second, there's so many explosions and so much." And remembering what it was like the first time he was in Iraq, it's painful to think of Kyle being there all over again. Katie says, "My mother put it best when she said, I don't think I have another year in me to go through that again." But the family will do what they have to do and continue to support the troops serving in Iraq. "I don't have a brother personally and he is like a younger brother to me, I love him dearly, we're really proud of him, appreciate what he and everyone else is doing," says Doug. While some troops are being sent back to Iraq, others throughout the Upstate are expected to return home within the next few weeks. A spokesman with the Department of Defense says the 151st Signal Battalion's 500 troops are waiting on aircraft in Southwest Asia to pick them up and bring them home as soon as possible. (1:45)

April 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

As thousands of military families receive bad news that their loved ones are not coming home from the war in Iraq....the news is much better for some families in the Upstate. FOX Carolina has learned that more than 400 National Guard soldiers are scheduled to come home. The 151st Signal Battalion has been in Iraq for more than year and has companies based in Belton, Laurens, Greenville, and Williamston. One soldier's mom wants to make sure the troops come home to more than a hero's welcome. Anita Bryant has been collecting gift certificates for every soldier. The arrival date for the soldiers is still up in the air. They could come home as soon as Sunday. Once the soldiers are debriefed at Fort Jackson they will return to the Upstate. They will then receive their gift certificates

at a welcome home party in Anderson a few days after they arrive back in South Carolina. If you own an upstate business and would like to donate a gift certificate, please call Anita Bryant at 895 - 0365. (1:45)

April 15, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Charles Townes says he never imagined the uses his invention, the laser, would be put to over the decades that followed. Townes, 89, a Greenville native, was honored by city officials on Wednesday, who proclaimed April as Charles Townes Month. The honor comes 40 years after he was given the Nobel Prize in Physics. "My primary drive was to make a good scientific instrument," Townes said. "I knew it was going to be important, but exactly what was going to be the most important was hard to foresee at that time." Lasers are used in everything from television remotes, cameras, store check-outs, officer printers and compact disc players. The deepest impact on Townes came when his invention revolutionized eye surgery. "When a friend comes up and tells me the laser has saved his eyes," Townes said, "Wow, that really gives me a feeling." An interest in finding how things worked drew him into science, Townes said. He graduated from Furman University in 1935 and joined the faculty at Columbia University in 1948. (1:45)

April 18, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The towering steeple of Second Presbyterian Church was used by Union batteries to sight the guns that lobbed shells into Charleston during a 587-day Civil War siege. And now in its building nearby, the Charleston Museum has mounted its first permanent exhibit of those days of war and deprivation. Although technically not a siege - the rail lines to the west still operated although tenuously toward war's end - the Union blockade put a stranglehold on Charleston, which refused to surrender. The new exhibit in the nation's oldest museum shows how the city weathered the conflict that opened with the Confederate bombardment on Fort Sumter in the harbor in 1861. The fort surrendered after that opening battle. The Confederates occupied it and later found themselves in turn under siege from Union forces. Historians say the fort has been shelled more than any other site in the Western Hemisphere. The museum has had temporary Civil War exhibits, but no permanent ones, in the past. Many people long associated Charleston with America's colonial era. The Hunley was the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship. A replica of the vessel, which now sits in a courtyard outside the museum, had been displayed in the basement of a building in the historic district. The actual Hunley was raised from the Atlantic four years ago and eventually will go on display in a museum in North Charleston. (1:45)

April 20, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A partnership between the Legislative Black Caucus and the state Department of Juvenile Justice has created three Teen After-School Centers. The caucus gave a \$10,000 check to the program Wednesday, and the partnership announced plans for 10 new centers in additions to those already operating in Bishopville, Hartsville and Greenville. Churches and community organizations run the centers with support from volunteers and colleges around the state. For instance, the University of South Carolina's Computer Buddies program works in centers, DJJ director Bill Byars said. Children are referred to the program by parents, school resource officers, the agency or family courts. The program is intended to keep children busy and out of trouble, Byars said. The centers can "harness that energy that comes with youth in a constructive fashion. The centers "make a whole lot of sense." They also aren't a burden on taxpayers, he said. With loads of issues facing society, "I don't always think that government is the only way of addressing them," Sanford said. (1:45)

April 25, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Another group of South Carolina soldiers has returned home from Iraq. The 151st Signal Battalion was welcomed back to the Upstate on Saturday with a parade. About 2,000 people hollered, clapped, whistled and snapped photos to welcome home the 100 soldiers. Sgt. Randy Robinson said now he has to prepare for another assignment - he plans to get married in September. Temperatures soared into the 80s on Saturday, but Robinson said it felt like a blast of cool air compared to what he saw in Iraq. "This isn't heat," he said. Many members of the battalion returned some for two weeks several months ago, but many like 19-year-old Rachel Lee said the trip was too brief. Lee said she now plans to catch up with family, sleep and take a vacation until she needed to report back to the South Carolina National Guard in September. (1:45)

May 3, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Some area elementary school kids are out for blood today. Students at Brook Glen Elementary School are competing with students from other Greenville County Schools in a blood drive. The winner will receive \$1,000 from The Blood Connection. Brook Glen Elementary already has plans for the money. They are in the process of building a new school and would use the money for new playground equipment. If history is an indicator those kids will get their playground; Brook Glen won the contest last year. (1:45)

May 6, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

North Carolina's effort to preserve its heritage is receiving White House recognition. President George W. Bush has presented state arts officials with one of two Preserve America Presidential Awards. The awards recognize achievements in heritage tourism. North Carolina gets kudos for its Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative - which includes four heritage trails -- the Blue Ridge music trail, the Cherokee heritage trail, the craft heritage trails of western North Carolina and the farms, gardens, and countryside trails of western North Carolina. (1:45)

May 12, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A mother goes into labor, not in the hospital, but under some railroad tracks. The mother and baby are doing well, thanks to everyone and everything being in the right place at the right time, aside from the mother. Cheryl Workman and Ben Williams were down on their luck for some time and had nowhere else to stay but in a culvert underneath the railroad tracks near Kerns Avenue in Greenville County. The couple never expected the culvert to become a make-shirt delivery room for their baby. Wednesday morning, Ben went to find work for the day. Cheryl and another man stayed in the culvert, that's when the baby

decided it was ready to see the world. Cheryl says, "He [the other man] was asking me what to do and I didn't know what to do, I'm asking him....I told him, I know I shouldn't be pushing, but this baby's coming."

And that's when little Alexis Amari was born. "I was trying to wipe the baby off, I was trying to make sure she was breathing all right and everything and I started picking at her and she started crying, so I knew everything was fine then," says Cheryl. While the baby didn't wait for a hospital bed, Parker District Firefighters arrived in time to help. Private Mike Panighetti with Parker District Fire Department says, "When we arrived at the scene, the mom was holding the baby, still had the umbilical cord attached....I clamped the cord, cut it and tried to start packaging the baby and the mom, so when EMS got there we could get them out as soon as possible." Then Cheryl says she saw her little girl "moving her hands and everything and then she stuck up two little fingers like everything's ok." Now it was time to find Ben and let him know he was a daddy. While Ben says he doesn't know where the future will take him, he's hoping his daughter's future holds nothing but good things. The baby was supposed to be born in June and was premature. She weighs about four pounds and is 17 inches long. She's in the Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, but mom and baby are doing well. Now comes the difficult question of where the family will go once they leave the hospital. The Department of Social Services may play a role in that decision. (1:45)

May 25, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a \$4.1 million grant to the South Carolina Office of Victim Assistance, U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings said Monday. The office provides critical services to families as they heal from the physical, psychological, and emotional wounds of crime and violence, Hollings said. "This grant does much to ensure that victims of crime can receive compensation payments," Hollings said. The grant provides funds to enhance South Carolina's victim compensation payments. To date, the funds have always come from people convicted of federal crimes, not taxpayers. (1:45)

June 5, 2004

4:50pm

Fox News Cut-In

DESCRIPTION

Ronald Reagan, the cheerful crusader who devoted his presidency to winning the Cold War, trying to scale back government and making people believe it was "morning again in America," died Saturday after a long twilight struggle with Alzheimer's disease. "My family and I would like the world to know that President Ronald Reagan has passed away after 10 years of Alzheimer's disease at 93 years of age. We appreciate everyone's prayers," Nancy Reagan said in a statement. Nancy Reagan, along with children Ron and Patti Davis, were at the couple's Los Angeles home when Reagan died at 1 p.m. PDT of pneumonia complicated by Alzheimer's disease, said Joanne Drake, who represents the family. Son Michael arrived a short time later, she said. In Paris, President Bush called Reagan's death "a sad day for America." The U.S. flag over the White House - along with flags elsewhere - was lowered to half-staff. At ballparks and at the Belmont Stakes, there were moments of silence. Five years after leaving office, the nation's 40th president told the world in November 1994 that he had been diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's, an incurable illness that destroys brain cells. He said he had begun "the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life." Reagan's body was expected to be taken to his presidential library and museum in Simi Valley, Calif., and then flown to Washington to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. His funeral was expected to be at the National Cathedral, an event likely to draw world leaders. The body was to be returned to California for a sunset burial at his library. Reagan began his life in a four-room apartment over the general store in Tampico, Ill. During his 93 years, he was a radio sports announcer, an actor, a two-term governor of California and a crusader for conservative politics. Over two presidential terms, from 1981 to 1989, Reagan reshaped the Republican Party in his conservative image, fixed his eye on the demise of the Soviet Union and Eastern European communism and tripled the national debt to \$3 trillion in his single-minded competition with the other superpower.

At the time of Reagan's retirement, his very name suggested a populist brand of conservative politics that still inspires the Republican Party. He declared at the outset, "Government is not the solution, it's the problem," although reducing that government proved harder to do in reality than in his rhetoric. Even so, he challenged the status quo on welfare and other programs that had put government on a growth spurt ever since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal strengthened the federal presence in the lives of average Americans. In foreign affairs, he built the arsenals of war while seeking and achieving arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. In his second term, Reagan was dogged by revelations that he authorized secret arms sales to Iran while seeking Iranian aid to gain release of American hostages held in Lebanon. Some of the money was used to aid rebels fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua. Despite the ensuing investigations, he left office in 1989 with the highest popularity rating of any retiring president in the history of modern-day public opinion polls. That reflected, in part, his uncommon ability as a communicator and his way of connecting with ordinary Americans, even as his policies infuriated the left and as his simple verities made him the butt of jokes. "Morning again in America" became his re-election campaign mantra in 1984, but typified his appeal to patriotism through both terms. Reagan's presidency overlaid the spendthrift 1980s, tagged by some as the "Greed Decade." It was a time of conspicuous consumption, hostile takeovers, new billionaires. American power was ascendant after the angst of the 1970s over Vietnam and the release of the hostages in Iran at the start of his presidency. In large ways and small - from the president's tough talk against the Evil Empire and "welfare queens" to his wife's designer dresses and new china for the White House - the Reagans seemed to embody the times. And for all the glowing talk of Reagan's folksy appeal and infectious optimism, it was a time of growing division between rich and poor. Now, as then, critics point to Reaganomics in lamenting big defense spending at the expense of domestic needs and a growing national debt. Reagan, a Democrat in his acting days, got a taste of politics when he served as president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1947 to 1952. He appeared in more than 50 films over two decades in Hollywood, with roles ranging from a college professor who raises a chimpanzee in "Bedtime for Bonzo" to doomed football star George Gipp in "Knut Rockne: All-American" in which he wanted his teammates to "win just one for the Gipper." Reagan lived longer than any U.S. president, spending his last decade in the shrouded seclusion wrought by his disease, tended by his wife. Now, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton are the surviving ex-presidents. "Ronald Reagan was an excellent leader of our nation during challenging times at home and abroad. We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to Nancy and his family," Ford said. Clinton called Reagan "a true American original." Although she was fiercely protective of Reagan's privacy, Nancy Reagan let people know the former president's mental condition had deteriorated terribly. Last month, she said: "Ronnie's long journey has finally taken him to a distant place where I can no longer reach him." At 69, Reagan was the oldest man ever elected president when he was chosen in 1980, by an unexpectedly large margin over the incumbent Carter. Near-tragedy struck on his 70th day as president. On March 30, 1981, Reagan was leaving a Washington hotel after addressing labor leaders when a young drifter, John Hinckley, fired six shots at him. A bullet lodged an inch from Reagan's heart, but he recovered. Four years later he was re-elected by an even greater margin, carrying 49 of the 50 states in defeating Democrat Walter F. Mondale, Carter's vice president. Reagan's oldest daughter, Maureen, from his first marriage, died in August 2001 at age 60 from cancer. Three other children survive: Michael, from his first marriage, and Patti Davis and Ron from his second. (30:00)

June 7, 2004

10 pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Six years after fire nearly reduced the historic Thomas Wolfe House to a pile of charred rubble, the drafty old boarding house in downtown Asheville has been painstakingly restored to its 1916 condition. Furniture lost or damaged has been replaced or restored. Even the rough plaster walls of the day have been restored — to the same half-finished look they had when a young Wolfe left home to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But good luck getting Steve Hill, site manager at the memorial site for more than a quarter of a century, to admit that the still-unsolved July 1998 arson turned out for the best. Among other changes resulting from the

lengthy restoration process, the 6,000-square-foot Queen Anne-style house at 48 Spruce Street is no longer painted white — as it had been for years before it burned. "It's a shade below canary yellow," said Hill, who oversaw the effort to restore the 121-year-old, 29-room structure to the way it was when Wolfe's mother Julia rented its small bedrooms to travelers in the first part of the 20th century. The house was memorialized as "Dixieland" in Wolfe's 1929 novel, "Look Homeward, Angel." Restored at a cost of \$2.4 million, Wolfe House is reopening to the public this weekend. Most of the funding came from insurance, but private gifts ranging from \$35 to four-figure donations helped restore hundreds of pieces of furniture and other artifacts damaged in the blaze. The restored boarding house reflects Julia Wolfe's penny-pinching ways. The house's restorers asked workers to mimic that half-done feel. "The big challenge is to not gild the lily," Oppermann said. "It was a flop house. Tom did not know what room he would sleep in every night until he looked to see which rooms were occupied and which ones were empty. There were a lot of people down on their luck who slept there. "We were not trying to create something different from it was," he said. "It was the life that he lived." The fire did a lot of damage to some parts of the house and left other parts virtually untouched. Just one baluster of the main staircase burned; a short distance away, in the dining room, the fire burned so hot that it turned a silver tea service into a pool of molten metal. Investigators believe the fire started in the dining room, where most of the damage occurred. Among the items destroyed was the large table where the Wolfe family and their guests broke bread nightly. That is where a young and impressionable Thomas Wolfe met drifters and travelers whose personalities and characteristics appeared in his later writings. The pieces that replaced the original tables and chairs offer one thing the originals did not have, Hill said. "Visitors will be able to sit down at this table," he said. "We never could have done with the original table because it was so fragile." In the entrance hall, Mission-style oak chairs were spared but the photographs on the walls were consumed by flames. The house has 13 fireplaces, some with ornate mantels. While one in the front room was undamaged, another in the dining hall was destroyed. Using old photographs provided by Hill, a local woodworker built an identical walnut replica mantel at a cost of \$13,000. In all, the fire destroyed about a fourth of the house's furniture and artifacts, Hill estimated. But an outpouring of support — both money and talent — from area residents helped bring the Wolfe House back to life. Curators from the nearby Biltmore Estate came to help remove and clean charred furniture and other pieces. Like a nervous parent, Hill is edgy about reopening the house to the public after the fire. He locked the front screen door when he took a visitor on a tour of the house's second floor. Behind the screen door is one lasting remnant of the fire. The wooden front door — which was carefully restored after it had been painted and repainted several times — still shows the marks from a fireman's ax from that fateful night. "We thought it was important to leave it that way," said Hill. (1:45)

June 7, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Evangelist Billy Graham was released from a hospital Monday following surgery for a broken pelvis he suffered in a fall, officials said. Graham, 85, had been recovering for more than two weeks at Mission Hospitals in Asheville. "He has made tremendous progress for a man his age," said surgeon Dr. Daniel Eglinton. He has had no complications." Graham fell at his home last month. At the time, he was recovering from a partial hip replacement after he fell earlier this year in a Jacksonville, Florida. Longtime family physician Dr. Lucian Rice described Graham as "mentally keen and very determined." (1:45)

June 25, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A professor, a retired judge, a surgeon and an actress are among eight people being inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame. United Black Fund of the Midlands was sponsoring the black-tie event here Friday

night. The group established the hall of fame to preserve the history of black South Carolinians. Board members from throughout the state meet each winter and discuss candidates. This year's class will leave the hall with 186 members. "We're being honored for what we've done in the past, but it's a challenge to what we're going to do in the future," said University of South Carolina professor Johnnie McFadden, who will join his wife in the hall. McFadden founded an academy to help outstanding high school students develop leadership skills, and he directs the African-American Professor's Program at USC. Other 2004 honorees are:

- _ Jasper Cureton of Columbia. The retired judge was the first black man on the South Carolina Court of Appeals.
- _ Beryl Dakers of Columbia. She is director of cultural programing for South Carolina Educational Television.
- _ C. Tyrone Gilmore of Spartanburg. The retired school superintendent helped establish an alternative for students who struggled in traditional schools.
- _ State Sen. Maggie Glover, D-Florence. She is the first black woman to serve in the South Carolina Senate.
- _ Dr. Gerald Wilson of Columbia. The surgeon was the first black student to complete the University of South Carolina's honors program and is chairman of the board for the South Carolina Medical Association.
- _ Eugene Montgomery of Orangeburg. Before his death, he worked with the plaintiffs in a historic school desegregation case in Summerton and was the first executive secretary of the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- _ Marlena Smalls of Beaufort. The singer and actress has worked to preserve the Gullah culture in the Lowcountry. (1:45)

June 28, 2004

10pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The U.S.-led coalition transferred sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government Monday, speeding the move by two days in an apparent bid to surprise insurgents and prevent them from trying to sabotage the step toward self rule. Militants had conducted a campaign of car bombings, kidnappings and other violence that killed hundreds of Iraqis in recent weeks and was designed to disrupt the transfer, announced by the Bush administration late last year. Initially, the Americans were thought to have planned for about one more year of occupation. Legal documents transferring sovereignty were handed over by U.S. governor L. Paul Bremer to chief justice Mahdi al-Mahmood in a small ceremony attended by about a half dozen Iraqi and coalition officials in the heavily guarded Green Zone. Bremer took charge in Iraq about a year ago. "This is a historical day," Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said during the ceremony. "We feel we are capable of controlling the security situation." (1:45)